

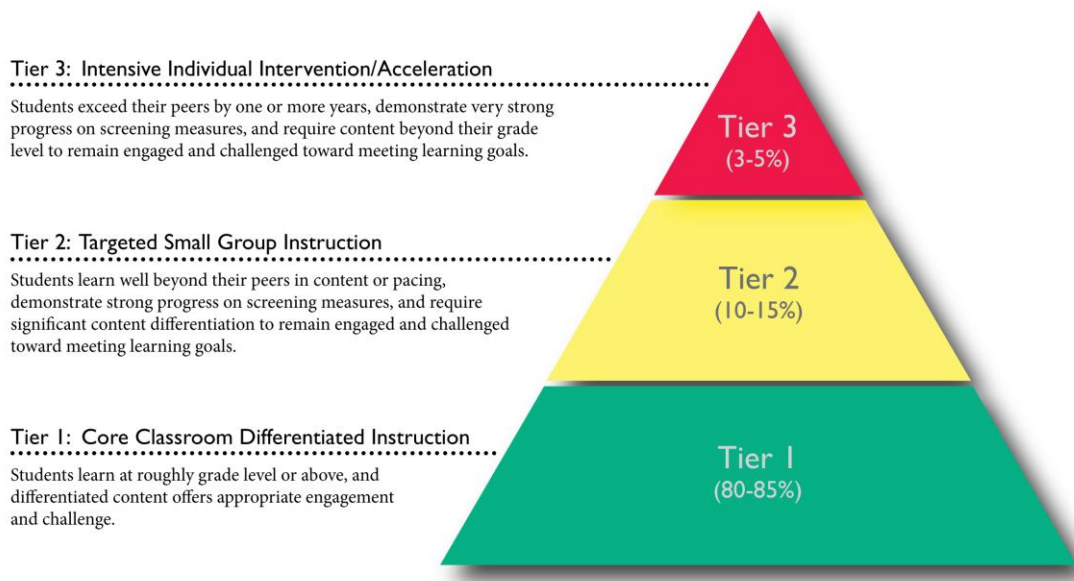
Meeting the Needs of K-8 Advanced Learners in Cambridge Public Schools

Goal:

The goal of this document is to help CPS staff members understand our model of meeting the diverse learning needs of all of our students, including those of fast paced learners and those whose content mastery is significantly above grade level peers.

Our Model:

To address our twin goals of high academic achievement and social justice, we meet the needs of all of our learners through differentiated instruction in heterogenous classrooms. Meeting the individual needs of our diverse student population is very challenging, so we offer support according to the following framework.



Tier One Implementation Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers – Lesson planning, differentiation, and implementation

Responsible for appropriate formative, summative and district assessments

Identify students who perform above/below grade level

Coordinate parent involvement and communication

Coaches - Support teachers in providing appropriate instruction and assessment

Coordinate Analysis of Student Data

Assist in identifying student need and providing differentiation opportunities

Building Administrators, Curriculum Coordinators, District Coaches, Academic Challenge

and Enrichment Manager – Support coaches and teachers as necessary

Tier Two Additional Supports

Consulting with Academic Challenge and Enrichment Manager – When a staff member identifies a pair or group of students who would benefit from small group differentiated content instruction, project management, or specific academic supports, the Academic Challenge and Enrichment Manager is available to help with designing strategies, creating materials, or providing classroom support.

Enriched Learning Plan (ELP) - When an individual student is identified by staff or parents as learning well beyond their peers in content or pacing and requiring significant content differentiation to remain engaged and progressing toward learning goals, a request can be made to the Academic Challenge and Enrichment Manager to initiate the ELP process. (see attached flow chart and description).

Tier Three Additional Supports

When students exceed their peers by one or more years and demonstrate grade level mastery through the ELP process, we provide curriculum content that matches their instructional level. This is supplied in one of two ways:

Subject Acceleration – Students are placed in a classroom of another grade level for the relevant subject/s.

Classroom delivery of beyond grade level content – If placement with a group of like ability peers for instruction is not recommended or possible, appropriate content will be delivered to the student in their grade level classroom.

Other Things to Know about the Academic Challenge and Enrichment Office

District Level Parent Workshops – Frequent K-8 workshops are offered for parents and community members. Flyers are distributed via student backpacks approximately one week before each event. All CPS staff are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Social Emotional Needs – Advanced learners may have issues with anxiety, perfectionism, isolation, underachievement, bullying, and over-excitabilities. They can be misdiagnosed with ADHD or Oppositional Defiant Disorder, or be overlooked for needed support. School counselors and psychologists are our specialists on these issues.

Twice Exceptional Learners (2e) – Students may be advanced learners and have learning disabilities. Their disabilities can inhibit their talents, and their abilities can sometimes mask their deficits. They are good candidates for an ELP.

Professional Development Opportunities – There are Professional Development opportunities offered based on the philosophy that providing meaningful instruction for high needs learners requires the same fundamental skills whether they have learning disabilities, advanced capabilities, or a mixture of both. Courses aim to build skills and provide materials to differentiate for your entire spectrum of learners.

Academic Challenge and Enrichment Website – Resources, calendar, info. Go to <https://sites.google.com/a/cpsd.us/pfeyman2/>

Resource Sharing – Need something for a lesson? Have something to share?

Contact: Paula Feynman pfeynman@cpsd.us or 617-349-6427

