

## Understanding Differences

(Adapted from Carol Tomlinson's Differentiated Instruction)

<b>Traditional Classroom</b>	<b>Standards Aligned Classroom</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student differences are masked or acted upon when problematic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student differences are studied as a basis for planning.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment is most common at the end of learning to see “who got it”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment is ongoing and diagnostic to understand how to make instruction more responsive to learner need.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole-class instruction dominates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many instructional arrangements are used.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coverage of texts and curriculum guides drives instruction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student’s readiness, interest, and learning profile shape instruction.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mastery of facts and skills out-of-context are the focus of learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of essential skills to make sense of and understand key concepts and principles is the focus of learning.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single option assignments are in the norm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-option assignments are frequently used.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time is relatively inflexible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time is used flexibly in accordance with student need.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single text prevails.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple materials are provided.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single form of assessment is often used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are assessed in multiple ways.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesson topic is selected from text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesson topic is selected based on assessment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests are based on text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests are based on reporting categories.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher tests then moves on in the curriculum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers test and reteach based on student mastery level.</li> </ul>