



# POSITION PAPER – ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The *Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented* supports expanded learning and enrichment opportunities as a crucial element in our Colorado schools.

Expanded learning opportunities need to be provided for gifted students to explore their passions and interests throughout their school day to support their intellectual well-being. The Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented recognizes the importance of expanded and enrichment learning opportunities for gifted students in our Colorado schools.

According to Colangelo and Davis (2003), expanded and enrichment learning opportunities are modifications and extensions of the curriculum for gifted learners to explore topics in greater depth or breadth (p.165). A higher level of thinking, problem solving, investigation and exploration, occurs when there is integration of varied learning areas. Creative outcomes and products, and the use of supplementary resources beyond the normal range, provide gifted students the chance to investigate and pursue their passion or strength area.

At a time when the major emphasis in many classrooms and schools is on mastering basic skills and core content at grade level, enrichment, particularly for the gifted and talent, has become a crucial pedagogical concern. Educators who want all students to learn new things each day must offer enrichment opportunities to those who can demonstrate they already know most or all of what is being taught. Roberts (2005) argues that providing appropriately challenging learning experiences, nurturing interests and developing strengths yield citizens who can provide leadership in all areas of human endeavor, including space exploration, medical research, the visual and performing arts and politics.

## REFERENCES

Colangelo, N., Davis, G., (2003) *Handbook of gifted education* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) Pearson Education Inc. Boston, MA

Roberts, J., (2005) *Enrichment opportunities for gifted learners*. Prufrock Press, Waco, TX

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