Gifted Education Boot Camp - Online
Center for Talent Development, Northwestern University

Content Overview

This professional learning course is intended to be the equivalent of 15 hours of instruction. A majority of the course work is conducted asynchronously, which means you can access content and activities at times that work best for you. To allow for additional discussion and to address core issues in greater depth, we will schedule three live, online synchronous sessions. You should plan to spend approximately 6 to 8 hours each week on the course.

Module 1 – Foundations: Understanding Giftedness, Dimensions of Equity, Gifted Education Standards

Pacing guide: This is the "introduction" module, which provides a framework for thinking about gifted education and context for all the content in the course. While reviewing this module, we also recommend previewing the activities (titled Please Respond or Please Complete) in each module/unit and skimming the Capstone Project case study so that you can plan your time and ask for any clarification you may need.

Module 2 – Assessment, Identification, and Service Models

Pacing guide: This module explores the connections among assessment, learning, and programming. It provides both a framework to help guide instructional planning and strategies that improve practice in the classroom and at the school level. Please complete this section before you begin the section on acceleration best practices. Note that our second synchronous session will address the topics in this module. To assure time to complete all modules, the introduction and assessment topics should be completed by the end of week one.

Module 3 – Rigor, Complexity, and Modifying Instruction for Advanced Learners

Pacing guide: For educators, curriculum and instruction are where the proverbial rubber meets the road. Content in this module addresses characteristics of effective curriculum, principles of differentiating instruction (including systems needed to support it), and how differentiation fits into the continuum of services.

Module 4 – Setting the Pace: Acceleration Best Practices

Pacing guide: Acceleration is the most extensively researched and effective approaches to meeting the needs of students with advanced learning needs. There are myriad approaches to acceleration, which will meet different needs and can be adapted to different settings. Please complete the acceleration section after you complete the section on assessment and identification in Module 2.

Module 5 - Psychosocial Skills

Pacing guide: This Module provides an overview of psychosocial skill development within a talent development framework and offers some strategies to introduce in classrooms.

Capstone Reflection

Utilizing the knowledge and skills developed this week, you will be asked to complete one of several project options.

Professional Learning Hours

If participants need Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) PD hours, they will need to complete the request form and ISBE evaluation. For individuals outside of Illinois, CTD is able to provide a certificate of completion with hours earned.