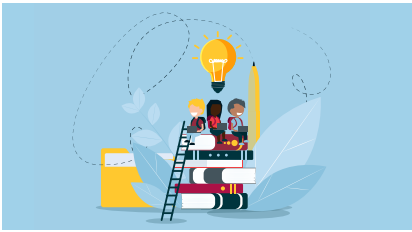




THE GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER
**CENTER FOR
CHARTER
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CENTRAL MICHIGAN
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CREATING TIERED LESSONS



Definition

Tiering involves teaching or applying the same standard/objective in up to three ways to meet the needs of students at three levels of preparation: 1) students not yet ready for that grade level's instruction, 2) students just ready, and 3) students ready to go beyond.

Strategies to Tier Lessons

Steps to Tiering

Planning is the name of the game for tiering instruction.

1. **Determine the standard** — All students are expected to master grade-level standards, so that all students should receive direct instruction and supports to attain mastery.
2. **Determine student proficiency levels on the standard** — Utilize various data points (e.g., pre-assessments, formative assessments, summative and standardized) to assess students' current understanding and readiness levels, then form groups.
3. **Determine the content/modifications for the tiered assignments** — Start by planning the lesson/task for the “just ready” group. Then, utilize one or more of the structures below to differentiate for students “not yet ready” and those “ready to go beyond” as mentioned in the definition above.

Structures to Tier Assignments

When tiering for readiness levels, it is important to design the learning objectives and activities for the standard, on-grade level expectations. Then, step up or step down the difficulty to create the appropriate scaffolding and challenge level.

- » **Challenge Level** — Use Bloom's or DOK Taxonomies as a guide to develop tasks at various levels of complexity.
- » **Resources** — Choose material at various reading levels and complexity of content. Make this as invisible as possible, making certain that all materials look inviting and age appropriate.
- » **Process/Product** — Students will reach similar outcomes but will use a different process to get there or will create a different product based on multiple intelligences.

Resources

- » Edutopia.org
- » Teachertube.com
- » Teachingchannel.com
- » ***Differentiating by Readiness: Strategies and Lesson Plans for Tiered Instruction*** by Joni Turville, Linda Allen and LeAnn Nickelsen