

Depth and Complexity

All children and youth can benefit from having the learning ceiling removed in order to become the best learners they can be. Dr. Sandra Kaplan's framework of depth and complexity emphasizes the differentiation of the core curriculum and provides teachers with tools to organize the curriculum in a way that is effective, efficient, and productive.

What is Depth and Complexity

- Complexity can be defined as the means by which knowledge is extended or broadened. The dimensions of complexity afford the teacher and students with opportunities to make associations and connections between and among areas or disciplines of study.
- The dimensions of Depth provide teacher and students the opportunity to dig deeper into the curriculum. They focus the teacher's and students' attention on increasingly more difficult, divergent, and abstract qualities of knowing a discipline or area.
 - The dimensions of depth are not to be confused with the various levels of Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives in the cognitive process domain.
 - The dimensions define ways in which students can manipulate the different dimensions of knowledge (factual, conceptual, procedural, metacognitive). The levels of remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate, and create define the cognitive process students are to employ with content.

Benefits of Using Depth and Complexity

- The use of Depth and Complexity provides a strategic plan to ensure that teachers remove the learning ceiling as they provide rich, learning opportunities for all students including the gifted.
- The use of the dimensions of Depth and Complexity can become tools for learning as students learn to apply the dimensions as they encounter new knowledge.
- The use of the dimensions of Depth and Complexity cuts across disciplines, cultural background, and grade levels.
- The use of the dimensions of Depth and Complexity assist teachers in analyzing the TEKS to ensure that instruction matches the student performance expected by the state.

Depth and Complexity Icons

- Each dimension of depth and complexity has an icon to represent the concept. This is done to assist young students who may not be writing formally, the English language learner, and to provide a way to process information in an expedient way by using non-linguistic representations.