

Avoiding the Pitfalls and Overcoming the Obstacles to Implementing Differentiated Instruction Words of Caution:

- 1. Do not accept a sterilized, politically correct definition of diversity for it undermines the driving force behind differentiating curriculum and instruction.**
- 2. Do not embrace a politically correct definition of school readiness.**
- 3. Recognize and accept that some students will need an additional year of learning time.**
- 4. Be sure to understand the change process as it applies to implementing differentiated instruction practices.**
- 5. Be careful not to underestimate the necessary funding required to implement and provide ongoing support for the differentiated classroom.**
- 6. Recognize that not all teachers have the will and/or skill to orchestrate a differentiated classroom.**
- 7. Encourage moving from theory to practice as soon as feasible to avoid losing teachers' interest.**
- 8. Recognize and provide for the increased time commitment required of teachers engaged in a differentiated classroom.**
- 9. Be wary of adopting a “sanitized” model of learning styles as a rationale for student differences.**
- 10. Be careful not to turn differentiated instruction into the latest education fad by overstating the benefits and virtues of this concept.**
- 11. Do not “adopt” or create a purist model of differentiated instruction. (It is NOT a model!)**
- 12. Do not implement differentiated instruction without providing staff development training in best practices.**
- 13. Do not adopt education policies or practices that are based on a “day care” version of developmentally appropriate practices.**
- 14. Do not mandate differentiated instruction. Mandates tend to be a fast track to disaster.**
- 15. Do not adopt any conflicting education mandates that make differentiating instruction difficult or impossible.**
- 16. Do not require differentiated instruction as part of a teacher's evaluation process until the teacher indicates he/she is ready to make this part of the evaluation process.**