

Introduction to Section III

As we began to plan the revision and update of the second edition of this text, we wanted to add something new and fresh, an aspect that would be different from most books on curriculum development and teaching strategies. We decided that a look at the international scene would provide such a component. Then we brainstormed, consulted colleagues, and issued 18 invitations to educators of the gifted in the international community. Of these, guest authors from 15 countries responded positively; of these, authors from 13 countries submitted manuscripts. Many of the invitees asked one or more colleagues to collaborate, with the result that the ideas and experiences of 19 educators of the gifted are represented—a rich source, indeed!

We asked that guest authors provide their perspective regarding education of the gifted in their country based on the following:

- Cultural context
- Population served (types of giftedness)
- Service delivery systems (administrative models)
- Description of curriculum or curricula for the gifted
- Articulation with the regular or national curriculum

Furthermore, we asked that they frame each of these within the context of the recommended curriculum modifications for gifted students:

Content Modifications

- Abstractness
- Complexity
- Variety
- Organization for learning value
- Study of people
- Study of methods

Process Modifications

- Higher levels of thinking
- Open-endedness
- Discovery
- Evidence of reasoning
- Freedom of choice
- Group interaction
- Pacing and variety

Product Modifications

- Result from real problems
- Addressed to real audiences
- Transformation
- Variety
- Self-selected format
- Appropriate evaluation

Learning Environment Modifications

- Learner centered versus teacher centered
- Independence versus dependence
- Open versus closed
- Acceptance versus judgment
- Complex versus simple
- Varied groupings versus similar groupings
- Flexibility versus rigidity
- High mobility versus low mobility

The resulting pieces follow. We hope that you find this section to be interesting and informative and that it offers new ideas and perspectives on education of the gifted.