Please Challenge Me!
Differentiating for Strong Mathematics Students in the Primary Grades

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Principles for Supporting Advanced Learners:
• Cultivate the learners’ desire to compete with their own possibilities rather than an established grade-level norm
• Make clear what constitutes ‘stretch goals’
• Provide a support system for helping the learner achieve ‘stretch goals’
• Balance rigor and joy in learning

Strategies for Supporting Advanced Mathematics Students in the Primary Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Description of Strategy</th>
<th>Benefits to Advanced Learner</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rich Mathematical Tasks</td>
<td>Use of tasks that emphasize learning mathematics concepts/skills through problem solving and reasoning with multiple entry points for students at varied levels of understanding</td>
<td>• Allow engagement at varied levels of sophistication • Emphasize critical thinking</td>
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<td>Tiered Assignments</td>
<td>Varied levels of activities designed to address a particular instructional goal at different levels of complexity, abstractness, open-endedness, and/or independence</td>
<td>• Can accommodate a wider range of skill levels than a single task • Provide work at an appropriate level of challenge</td>
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<td>Opportunities for Student Choice</td>
<td>Students make decisions about the mathematical tasks they will work on and how they will approach tasks. Students are encouraged to choose personally challenging work</td>
<td>• Allow student to take active responsibility for own learning • Encourage metacognition and intellectual risk-taking</td>
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<td>Task Extensions</td>
<td>Tasks that are as immediate follow-up to an already completed base task and provide heightened challenge</td>
<td>• Allow for dual engagement in whole class tasks and more challenging stretch tasks</td>
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Select References

This handout offers a summary of ideas presented in a session at the 2018 NCTM Annual Conference.