

## What Is Personalized Teaching?

**Personalized instruction is** "...the effort on the part of a school to take into account individual student characteristics and needs, and flexible instructional practices in organizing the student learning environment." (Keefe and Jenkins, 2000, p. xv)

The following *Breaking Ranks*<sup>™</sup> recommendations pertain to the personalization of teaching:

- Each high school community will identify a set of essential learnings—above all in literature and language, mathematics, social studies, science, and the arts—in which students must demonstrate achievement in order to graduate.
- The high school will integrate its curriculum to the extent possible and emphasize depth over breadth of coverage.
- Teachers will design work for students that is of high enough quality to engage them, cause them to persist, and when successfully completed, result in their satisfaction and their acquisition of learning skills and abilities valued by society.
- Teachers will know and be able to use a variety of strategies and settings that identify and accommodate individual learning styles and engage students.
- Teachers will teach in ways that help students to develop into competent problem solvers and critical thinkers.
- Teachers will integrate assessment into instruction so that assessment does not merely measure students but becomes part of the learning process.

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Source: National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). (1996). *Breaking Ranks: Changing an American institution*. Alexandria, VA. Reprinted by permission of publisher.

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