Focus Clearly
- pre-assess for learning interests, challenges as well as knowledge, skills
- clear directions, posted, explained with examples
- set explicit objectives and criteria aligned with standard
- model—think out loud

Develop with Depth
- ask challenging questions with “think time”
- guide learning strategies—listening, collaboration, note-taking, time management
- model with example problems
- demonstrate use of graphic organizers
- incorporate games
- gradual release of responsibility each day and across the week
- students demonstrate
- students write to clarify and apply what they learn
- emphasize transfer of knowledge and skills

Assess to Advance
- use differentiated assessments
- students self-assess
- check for understanding daily
- specific feedback—how to improve or advance
- weekly synthesis

Formative Assessment Approaches
Specific informal assessment; Complete graphic organizer; Student-made self-guide;
Students construct questions and answers (with explanation); Student-made glossary;
Students explain/justify response/solution; “response cards”

Instruction Strategies:
pre-assess to determine initial status; check for understanding/misunderstanding daily;
model; post-assess to determine and validate progress; link to meaningful context;
demonstrate then guide strategies using “I do, We do”; post examples and steps;
focus on one outcome each week, specify objective for each day related to that
outcome and confirm and clarify progress to meet it; adjust level of challenge to
accommodate students needing support and students who can advance;
organize application activities that involve students in adjusting or adding to the activity;
students demonstrate; students self-assess, then improve; students co-assess (pair;
compare; repair); peer tutoring and reciprocal tutoring; post student-made guides and
eamples

This guide includes strategies from Powerful Practices for High Performing Special Educators.