Definitions of Program Placement Options

Grouping by ability	Grouping within skill area. May be within the classroom grade-level, cross grade-level. Most commonly done in language arts, math. May include both acceleration and enrichment.
Cluster grouping	Grouping according to ability or interest in regular classroom. May be project-oriented, short-term or more extensive. Might involve use of learning centers.
Continuous progress	Individualized or group instruction based on assessed learning level/rate of student. Most commonly used with pre-post testing or mastery learning models. Student may advance through materials regardless of grade placement. Might include computer-aided instruction.
Fast-paced classes	Curriculum is offered at a faster rate than usual. Often used in connection with compacting or acceleration.
Compacted curriculum	Reducing the amount of time normally required to cover a subject. May result in acceleration or enrichment opportunities.
Part-time class	Students are grouped for a period of time away from the regular classroom. Example, elementary resource room, seminars or tutorials. Could also include a special Talented and Gifted class at secondary level or a counseling class (often for underachieving).
Independent study	Student contracts to complete specific work or project with supervision and monitoring.
Academic competitions	Odyssey of the Mind, Science Bowl, Future Problem Solving, Math counts, Mock trial, etc.
Cross-grade grouping	Students may be ability grouped with students in a higher grade level.
Ungraded/Multi-age	Most frequently seen in ungraded primary setting. Allows a student to proceed at individual pace.

Grade-skipping	Process that allows for student to be placed in grade ahead of usual placement.
Full-time class	Full-time classroom for gifted students. Usually involves fast-pacing, enrichment, emphasis on thinking skills development, etc. Effective student learning model.
Early entrance	Child enters kindergarten, first grade, junior high, senior high or college prior to age mates.
Concurrent dual enrollment	Attendance in the next higher school setting; credit in both settings (high school and college, junior high school and high school). Also possible between grade school and junior high.
Advanced placement (AP)	Formal AP curriculum for which high school students can complete a course and take the AP exam for college credit. Also, placement in a class more advanced than the student's age. Most commonly offered in math.
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Program that gives college credit based on successful completion of college level exam, regardless of how knowledge was attained.
Honors classes	Curriculum offered in greater depth and complexity for students who qualify. Typically for high-achieving, motivated students.
Credit by exam	Student successfully completes an examination covering the course material and received credit without taking the course. Most commonly done for personal finance, health, financial rights.
Mentorship/Internship	Student is paired with expert in a field of common interest with student being guided in a project or research. Internships may be in career fields (paid or unpaid) in the community.
Early graduation/Waiver	In order to enter a career field or college early, student may graduate prior to completion of requirements.

Special Classes

Magnet Schools	Schools, or parts of schools, with specialized curriculum designed to attract students with interest in those particular programs. May be a school or schools within a district or region.

Saturday/After School

Academic or experimental opportunities outside the school setting. (Not including sports.) Saturday Academy is an example.

Summer programs

Curriculum offered often on college campuses, such as U of O, OSU, Pacific, Willamette and Lewis and Clark.

International Perspective

International Baccalaureate, Often a "school within a school."

Interdisciplinary Class

Curriculum using a variety of disciplines: history, literature, art, science, etc. Emphasis on drawing relationships. Teaching thinking skills.