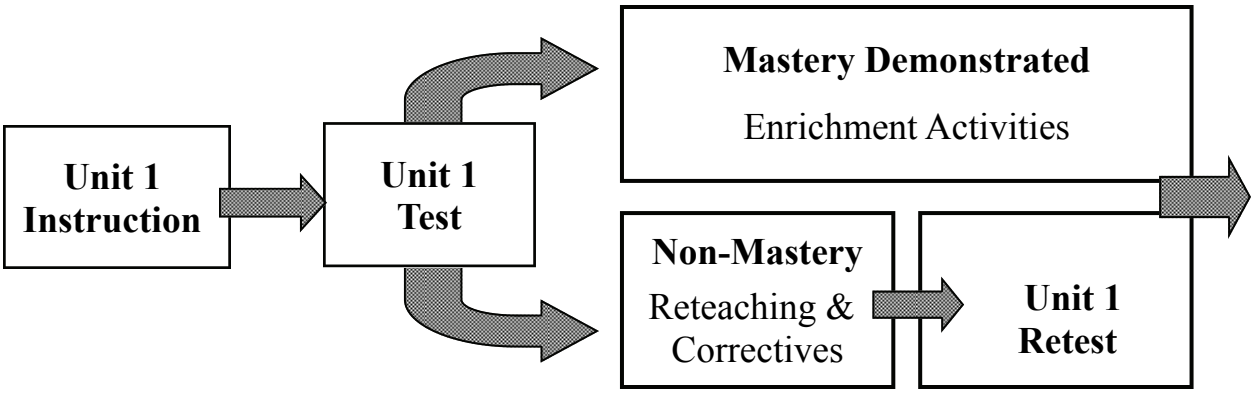
Mastery Learning

What is Mastery Learning?

Mastery Learning is an instructional process that provides students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate content mastery. Initial instruction is presented at a fast pace to engage all learners. Then a test, or formative assessment, is administered to everyone. Students who demonstrate mastery on this test are given challenging assignments to extend and deepen their content knowledge. Students who do not demonstrate mastery are given additional instruction specifically designed to correct their misunderstandings. Reteaching should involve strategies that are different from the original instructional methods. For example, if the original material was presented in a lecture format with visuals, the reteaching process might involve hands-on activities and cooperative learning strategies. A retest is later given to these students to allow them to demonstrate mastery.



What are some benefits of using the Mastery Learning model?

- Produces strong gains in overall achievement
- Allows struggling students an opportunity to master critical concepts before new content is introduced
- Provides rigor for high achieving students through enrichment activities

For More Information

For a complete description of the Mastery Learning model, read Tom Guskey's April 2005 paper "Formative Classroom Assessment and Benjamin Bloom: Theory, Research, and Implications" available online at the address below.

http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/1b/c1/35.pdf