

Differentiating Instruction for Special Education Students in the Inclusive Classroom

Grades K-12

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Expand your capacity to meet the needs of students with special needs in the general classroom and benefit from the results of current research in the field of Special Education. Six key areas are addressed within interactive professional learning contexts that include demonstrations, simulations, collaborative lesson planning, and analysis of video clips of inclusive teaching practices taken in real classrooms.

Key Components of the Training

1. Monitor and Respond to Student Progress

- Learn how to analyze multiple sources of curriculum-based data to measure student progress and use this to develop and implement a standards-based IEP.
- Gain a set of templates to construct an assessment notebook, including graphic organizers that allow you to see the status of student learning at-a-glance, and charts that correlate common areas of student difficulty with the menu of instructional responses examined in this training.
- Review options for evaluating and grading students with special needs in an inclusive classroom.
- Align students' profiles as learners with the modifications and accommodations on their IEP.

2. Implement Differentiated Lessons That Scaffold Students' Access to Grade Level Concepts

- Successfully differentiate instruction to ensure full participation of students with mild to moderate disabilities in the regular classroom.
- Learn how to easily differentiate lessons and tier tasks using a set of templates, internet resources and interactive tools that streamline teacher preparation.
- Incorporate a set of inclusive teaching structures for active learning that engage special education students during lessons, including all-student response formats that enable you to continuously check for understanding.
- Utilize tiered assignments that provide multiple avenues for students to gain increased understanding of key concepts and internalize newly learned information.
- Find out how to adapt teaching materials without reducing curriculum content to meet the needs of diverse learners in an inclusive classroom.

3. Increase the Success of Special Education Students on State Assessments

- Observe video clips of research-based teaching methods that have enabled special education students to achieve success on state assessments. These include differentiated, multimodal approaches to teaching academic vocabulary, reading, writing and math skills, learning strategies and critical thinking skills.
- Increase student retention of content in preparation for assessment through interactive academic games and review activities.
- Provide students with self-monitoring structures to guide successful completion of written tasks.

4. Manage the Inclusive Classroom Program

- Examine practical approaches for the day-to-day management of differentiating instruction in the inclusive classroom.
- Plan a schedule that increases the minutes of meaningful practice with accessible learning materials
- Implement collaborative activities that are inclusive for all students in your classroom, both special education and general education students.
- Incorporate ideas for facilitating student independence and increasing student time on task.

5. Co-Teach to Increase the Rate of Student Academic and Behavioral Progress

- Work successfully alongside your teaching partners and use time-saving methods for communication to achieve common goals.
- Select from a continuum of five co-teaching formats that clearly delineate the roles of the classroom and special education teacher.
- Observe video clips of co-teaching formats in action.

6. Maximize Your Intervention Schedule and Available Support Services

- Plan an intervention schedule that reflects a continuum of data-based student need.
- Maintain a Student Instructional Log to document the skill and strategy focus, as well as the frequency and intensity of instruction, in order to meet the criteria in a standards-based IEP for special education students.
- Structure the role of paraprofessionals to support achievement of student outcomes.