

Resources to Support Instruction for Students with Disabilities

Lesson Design

Strong lessons begin with a framework of [Universal Design for Learning](#), and the use of [Differentiated Instruction](#) to address the needs of all students. These are two strong frameworks with which to begin planning lessons for all students. More evidence- and research-based practices can be found in the F.A.C.T. Folio, [Providing Supports for All](#).

Some students with disabilities may qualify as a student with the most significant cognitive disabilities and will be provided instruction on Access Points. The [Instructional Resource Guide](#) on the Classroom Resources page from the Access Project has many strategies that will be helpful. Another resource is the [TIES Center](#), with many videos, articles and visuals on ways to provide instruction.

Assistive technology is often used to make learning accessible to all and to support individual students. A collection of [science tools](#) as well as a fun [myths activity](#) can provide guidance on designing lessons that can include assistive technology.

Designing Individualized Instructional Support

The provision of Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) for students with disabilities is designated by each student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) and is provided by the special education teacher in collaboration with the general education teacher(s). More information about SDI can be found on the [SDI Best Practices Card](#).

Many of the strategies that provide individualized supports to students with disabilities utilize [Flexible Grouping](#) and sometimes two teachers together will use the six [Collaborative Teaching Approaches](#). [Paraprofessionals](#) can also support students under the direction of a teacher.

There is a wide range of support that can be provided, and one way to find specific topics is through the [IRIS Center Resource Locator](#).

Behavior

Managing student behavior involves five essential classroom practices:

- Maximizing Structure
- Teaching Expectations & Rules
- Engaging Students
- Acknowledge Appropriate Behavior
- Responding to Inappropriate Behavior

Classroom management strategies should be responsive to students' cultures and fit with the style of teaching. More resources and examples, including [strategies](#), [data collection tools](#) and [video illustrations](#) are available for teachers. Some students may need supports [for mental, emotional and behavioral problems](#), and resources for educators to access additional services and supports for them can be found across the state.

Accessibility

Students with disabilities may have specific accommodations listed on their IEP or 504 plan. Learn more about the types of [accommodations](#) that students with disabilities might require in order to access the curriculum. Many more resources for making materials accessible to all students are available at the [National Center on Accessible Educational Materials](#) at the Center for Applied Special Technology. View the [Online Learning Series on Accessible Materials & Technologies](#).

Vision Impairments/Blindness

Strategies and materials for providing accessibility for students with vision impairments/blindness may be found in the [Best Practices for Including Students with Visual Impairments](#) card and through the [Described and Captioned Media Program](#), [Bookshare](#), and [Learning Ally](#).

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

To learn about how materials can be made accessible for students who are deaf/hard of hearing, explore [Best Practices for Including Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing](#) and read more tips in the article: [DeafTEC: Top Ten Things Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students Would Like Teachers to Do](#).

Please visit the contributing project websites for additional information and resources to support instruction for students with disabilities.

Access Project



<https://acesstofls.org/>



Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired

<https://www.fimcvi.org/>

Florida Inclusion Network

<https://www.floridainclusionnetwork.com/>



Florida Diagnostic Learning and Resources System

<https://www.fdlrs.org/>

Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET)



<https://sednetfl.info/Index.aspx>



Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

<https://www.rmtcdhh.org/>



Problem-Solving/Response to Interventions Technology and Learning Connections

<https://www.tlc-mtss.com/>



Florida Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Project

<https://flpbis.cbcs.usf.edu/>