

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADAPTING ASSIGNMENTS

 Please note:
If an assignment cannot be appropriately adapted to meet a student's documented needs, it should be used for data collection only and should not impact the student's grade.

1 Unpack the TEKS

- **Read the TEKS carefully** and highlight the action verbs.
- **Unpack the expectations:** List skills or knowledge the standard requires, including any multi-step processes. (This will apply to all content areas- consider student ability in other subjects as well)
- **Determine Complexity:** What prerequisite skills are involved & what's the cognitive load going to be for that student? Which parts are foundational or which are advanced that we can work toward later?

2 Understand Individual Student needs

- **Understand the students IEP:** What was their present level of performance like at their last meeting (PLAAFP) What are their academic goals? What accommodations and modifications are listed?
- **Assess student readiness:** consider their knowledge and skills compared to what the TEKS require.
- **Select what is manageable:** What can the student manage to do independently? You may need to simplify it or wait to add in certain advanced components as they gain skills.

3 Ensure Instructional Alignment

- **Align:** Be sure adaptations (whether its accommodations, scaffolding, or modifications) are aligned with the IEP and what is required in the TEKS.
- **Scaffold:** to prerequisite TEKS if the student is not yet on grade level. (Use the curriculum subunit, TEKS vertical alignment, FIE/ IEP, and/or the Lead4Ward scaffolding documents to also help determine prerequisite TEKS and Magic School AI- but you must ensure it is the correct TEKS if using AI.)

4 Adapt the Assignment

- **Determine supports:** Provide the least amount of support necessary that will allow the student to participate meaningfully in the learning process.
- **Start with accommodations** to support access without changing the content when possible.
- Use modifications *only* when accommodations aren't enough to meet the student's needs and it is in their paperwork. (Remember: If the learning expectation changes/ the content changes- it's a modification)

Check out Magic School AI for tons of ideas on differentiated questions, supports, and activities.

Accommodation Ideas

- Allow Extended Time/ Reduced Length: Keep at least one question per key concept
- Allow Text to Speech or Speech to Text
- Chunk assignment with highlighting, cutting, circling, etc. to give one *section* at a time.
- Frequent Breaks or Preferential Seating
- Use Mnemonic Devices, Graphic Organizers, Charts, FMW Lists, Grammar Rules, etc.
- Assistive Technology- (high and low tech)
- Step by Step directions for ind. student (s)

Other Adaptation Ideas (*Depending on context/TEKS- some could be A or M)

- Include a sentence stem/ frame/ word bank/ glossary of terms*
- Provide simplified vocabulary: a word, phrase, sentence, directions, etc. *
- Using videos or visuals to support understanding
- Use a checklist on how to do the process, etc.
- Provide an exemplar or completed model
- Task Analysis like chaining to take it step by step
- Allow verbal responses as an alternative to written answers. *

Modification Ideas

- Lower depth of knowledge: Remove or simplify complex questions.
- Reduce number of steps in multistep skills
- Scaffold to prerequisite TEKS when needed.
- Indicate where to find answers: Provide paragraph numbers for reading passages *
- Include specific formulas next to varied questions*
- Provide sentence stems or paragraph frames to support constructed responses. *
- Alternate projects*/ changes in grading criteria

5 Plan Gradual Progression/ Evaluate

- **Plan:** How can you add complexity over time as the student masters necessary skills?
- **Evaluate:** What worked and what do they still need? Fade certain supports if no longer needed.
- **Regularly communicate:** Have you shared progress or successful adaptations with the case manager, parents, & even the child in some cases? Do we need to revisit the IEP to remove or add certain supports?