



# Understanding Accommodations

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Aspiring Leaders Capstone Project  
2023  
Lisa Kimyachi



# Vision

All stakeholders will understand accommodations, who will benefit from the different types of accommodations, and how to implement them to allow all students to access high-quality Tier 1 instruction.

To create a professional development system including weekly newsletters for all stakeholders to gain an understanding of how students with IEPs/504s will benefit from accommodations that are linked to CT-SEDS Supplementary Aids and Services and teacher curriculums to ensure all students have access to the general education curriculum.

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# Mission

By June 2024, teachers will increase their knowledge of understanding IEP/504 accommodations for students through ongoing professional development to increase knowledge and planning for students from 45% to 80% as measured by stakeholder surveys.

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Goal

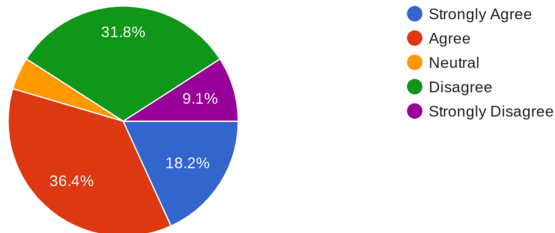
# Strategies:

Provide comprehensive, research-based professional development and ongoing coaching and support to develop professional practice and instruction related to understanding IEP/504 accommodations.

## Self-Assessment

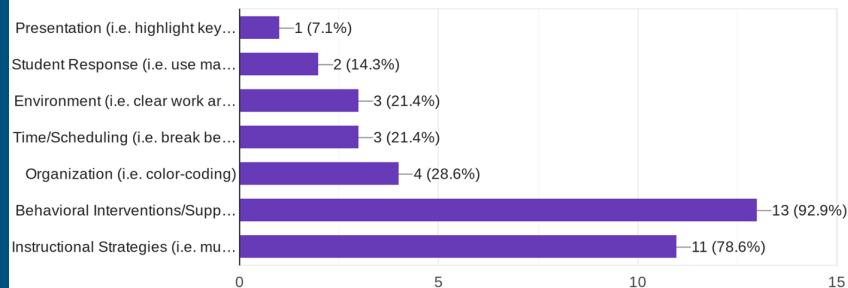
If asked by a parent or another staff member, I feel confident knowing and understanding the accommodations for students in my classroom.

22 responses



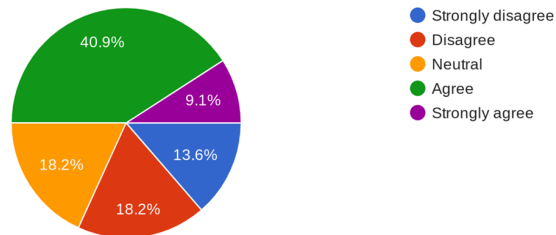
Please check all of the accommodation areas where you would like to learn more.

14 responses



I would like to have more training to understand all of my students' accommodations.

22 responses



# Strategies:

Provide comprehensive, research-based professional development and ongoing coaching and support to develop professional practice and instruction related to understanding IEP/504 accommodations.

## Learning Walks

	Presentation	Student Response	Environment	Time/ Schedule	Organization	Behavioral Intervention s and Support	Instructional Strategies
# of Classrooms Observed	17	11	17	4	17	18	17
1-4 Strategies	7	2	6	4	11	9	20
5-8 Strategies	1		1		1	3	2
9-12 Strategies	3	1	1			3	1
13-16 Strategies	0				1	2	

## Special Education Updates

March 20th-March 24th

### Accessing Accommodations Weekly PD

#### Organization: Color Coding Student Materials

Color coding classroom materials helps students save time as they find and put away classroom materials. Teachers can assign individual colors for subjects and then all materials for that subject will either be that color or marked with that color sticker/label.

To help students a label can be placed in the students locker, desk, cubby, or on an anchor chart in the classroom to remind students what subject is assigned to which color.

#### Organization: Color Coding Classroom Materials

Assigning each student, group, or class period a color helps students to know where to put materials in the classroom, where to look for assignments, and which anchor charts/visuals will be helpful for their learning.

Examples:

- Each math group is assigned a different color. Students assignments are written in this color.
- On word walls words can be written in different colors (colors for different subject words or colors for different parts of speech)
- Anchor charts are backed on different colors (blue anchor charts are all math materials, yellow anchor charts are all reading, green anchor charts are all writing)

#### Presentation: Color Coding

"Color can help students differentiate, retain, and transfer knowledge and, according to [Ozelike \(2009\)](#), pay attention to critical information for meaningful learning" ([Weareteachers.com](#)).

Use color coding to distinguish between concepts and ideas. Some students will benefit from the materials being given to them already color coded where other students will be able to color code on their own once explicitly taught how to do so. For students to complete this on their own they will need different color highlighters, markers, colored pencils, or pens.

Examples:

- As you take notes, have one color highlighter for the main ideas and another for key details.
- Use a different color for each step of a long division problem
- Color code different parts of a paragraph or essay (introduction color, body paragraph 1 color, body paragraph 2 color, body paragraph 3 color, conclusion color).

#### Presentation: Color Overlays

Color overlays are plastic reading sheets tinted with color and placed over texts.

Color overlays may benefit students with reading difficulties and/or dyslexia, poor eye contact, vision impairments, and attention concerns.

Color overlays may improve the brain's ability to process visual information and can help improve reading fluency, comprehension, attention, and concentration while reducing light sensitivity. For students with attention concerns, color overlays add stimulation and help students attend to the text. Some color overlays will block additional stimuli allowing readers to focus on one line of text at a time.

To use, the student places the color overlay directly over the text. Choosing the correct color for students is trial and error. To use on the Chromebook, students can download "Color Overlay," which is a screen masking tool that will tint the color of the whole screen. This is a free app.

By June 2024:

- 80% of staff members will have an increased knowledge of accommodations as measured by stakeholder surveys.
- There will be an increase of accommodation strategies observed in all areas from 1-4 strategies to 9+ strategies in classrooms as measured by learning walk data.
- There will be an asynchronous professional development library published for staff members to access as they plan.

## Projected Outcomes