



The Differentiated Classroom Increases Inclusive Opportunities



A collaborative project of the TN Department of Education
State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) and STEP, Inc.

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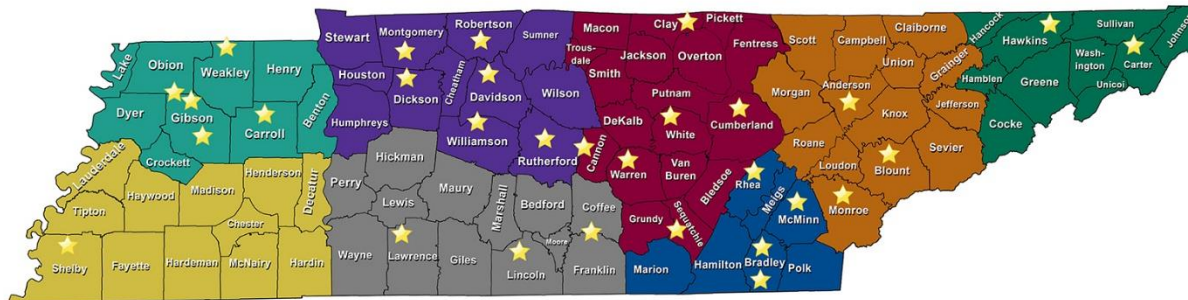
SPDG: Overview

- **Purpose:** To provide ALL students with access to high-quality core instruction in the least restrictive environment.
- **Partners:**
 - Centers for Literacy, Education and Employment – UT, Knoxville
 - University of Kentucky Human Development Institute
 - Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP)
- **Process:**
 - SPDG funded Professional Development Activities:
 - Strand One / Strand Two Trainings
 - Three part workshop series (Fall, Winter, Spring)
 - Conducted by district-selected facilitator
 - Audience: School teams from district-selected schools
 - General educator, special educator, administrator
 - Ongoing support:
 - Training:: All participants, Three times / year
 - Communities of Practice: Monthly check-ins
 - Coaching and Modeling: Individual support, based on need
 - Interventionist Support: Individual support, based on need

SPDG Participating Districts



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WEST

- Achievement School District
- Bradford Special School District
- Gibson County Special School District
- Trenton Special School District
- Weakley County Schools
- West Carroll Schools

MIDDLE

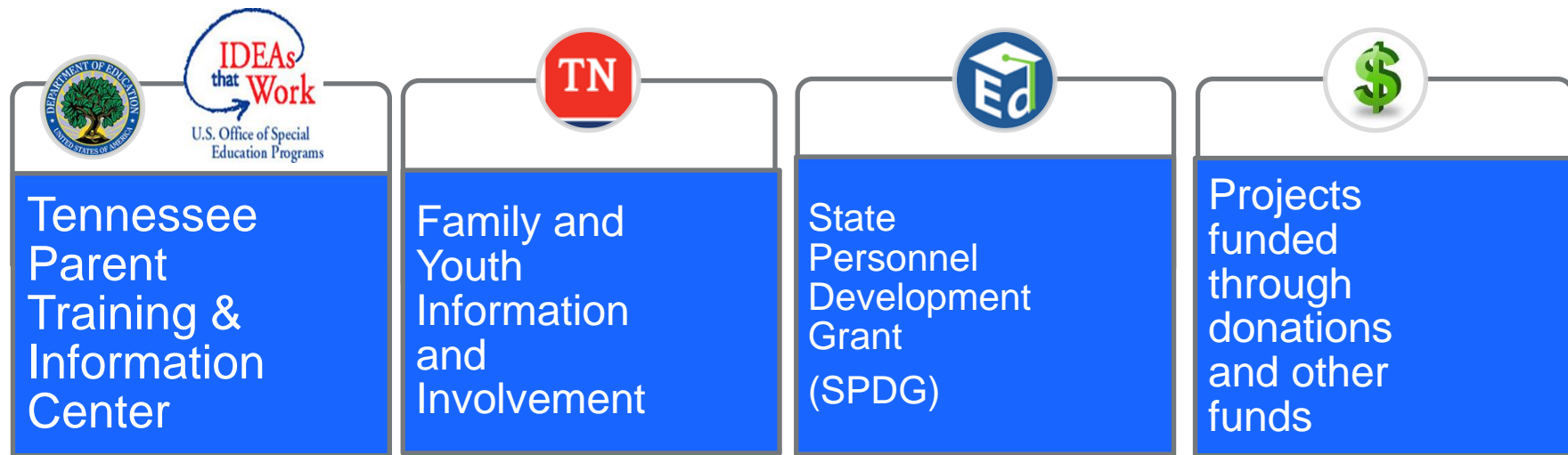
- Cannon County Schools
- Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools
- Clay County Schools
- Cumberland County Schools
- Dickson County Schools
- Fayetteville City Schools
- Franklin Special School District
- Lawrence County Schools
- Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Murfreesboro City Schools
- Robertson County Schools
- Tulahoma City Schools
- Warren County Schools

EAST

- Alcoa City Schools
- Bradley County Schools
- Cleveland City Schools
- Clinton City Schools
- Elizabethton City Schools
- Hawkins County Schools
- McMinn County Schools
- Rhea County Schools
- Sequatchie County Schools
- Sweetwater City Schools
- White County Schools

STEP: Who We Are & What We Do

STEP, Inc. (Support and Training for Exception Parents, Inc.) is a not for profit organization serving families who have children and youth with disabilities, ages birth through 26.



STEP's vision is to ensure a brighter future for children and youth in Tennessee, with an emphasis on those with disabilities, special health care needs, and mental health needs.



STEP: Our Services

- Trainings across TN
- Webinars and electronic information
- One-on-one assistance
- IEP/504 preparation
 - Record review and strategy planning
- Some attendance at IEP/504 meetings
- Letter writing help
- Referral to other agencies
- Information and awareness events/conferences
- Conflict resolution: Communication strategies, building relationships



Statewide training, information and referral services to parents of children with disabilities and professional development for school districts to improve family/youth involvement and outcomes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- What differentiation is and how it fits under the umbrella of Universal Design for Learning
- An overview of the Six Elements of the Differentiation Inventory and how each are implemented in a classroom setting
- Understand how to use the information as tools to support instructional practices and effectively communicate with teachers and administrators about a child's education.

Defining Differentiated Instruction

Differentiated instruction is a teaching philosophy based on the premise that teachers should adapt instruction to student differences and proactively plan a variety of ways to “get at” and express learning.

Carol Ann Tomlinson

SIX ELEMENTS OF THE INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM

1. ENVIRONMENT
2. CURRICULUM
3. ASSESSMENT
4. INSTRUCTION
5. CLASSROOM LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT
6. CULTURE AND COLLABORATION



ENVIRONMENT

- The “weather” of the classroom.
- Both the physical and social climate of the classroom.
- The environment affects everything that occurs in the classroom.

ENVIRONMENT



Sharing Voice

Use your sharing voice to speak clearly when sharing something with the class



Group Voice

Use your group voice to speak to your group only. The whole class should not be able to hear you.



Partner Voice

Use your partner voice to speak to your partner only. The rest of the table and class should not be able to hear you.



No Voice

You should not be using your voice. It is time to concentrate on your work or listen to others.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum is what teachers teach, and what they want their students to learn.

- Lesson Planning For Engagement
- Time and Support for Thinking
- Time and Support for Meaning
- Teaching Up

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is the key factor for informing teachers where each student **presently is in their academic progress** and allowing them to **adjust instruction based on individual student needs.**

INSTRUCTION

Instruction refers to **HOW content is delivered** and **HOW students experience the learning process.**



Handout #4: Differentiation of Instruction

Example Universal Design for Learning Template

Grade: 3 Subject: Science Standard: 6.23-Plants lifecycle

Goal: Research and present information on a flower.

Materials & Methods	Potential Barriers/ Missed Opportunities	UDL Solutions
Printed textbook	<p>Kevin-Difficulty seeing small text</p> <p>Bill-Doesn't tap his graphics skills</p> <p>Brian-Difficulty decoding/understanding word meaning</p>	<p>Electronic text with text-to-speech to read aloud CD-ROM or online encyclopedia;</p> <p>Web page with collections of images</p> <p>Link to Spanish Web site: partially filled in outline in Spanish /English</p>

CLASSROOM LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- Trust Between Teacher and Students
- Talking With Students about Differentiation
- Collaborative Problem Solving Related To Routines and Procedures

CULTURE AND COLLABORATION

Schools that have successful inclusive classrooms are those that have a strong basis of collaboration and a student-focused culture that fosters frequent and meaningful communication and collaboration among educators and parents.



Family Input is Key

Parents and caregivers can have a positive impact on their child's education

Support instructional practices

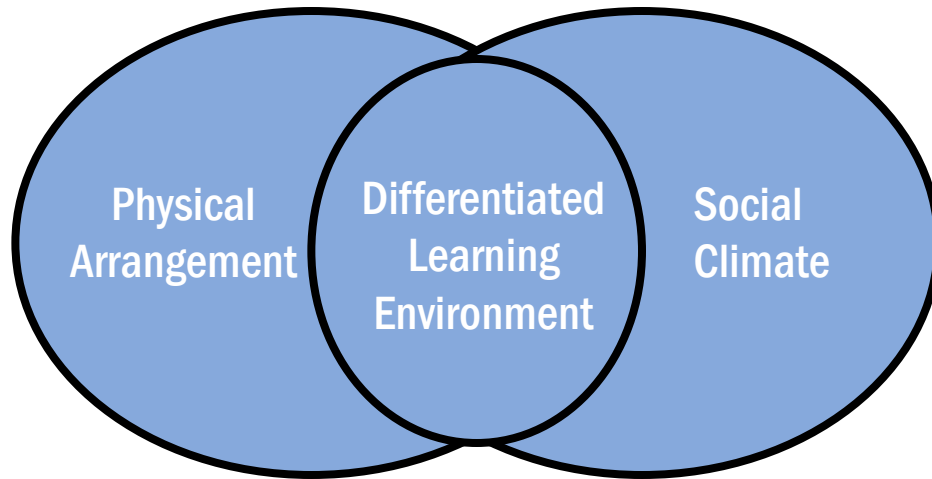
Communicate with teachers and administrators

Ask questions

Be actively involved in your child's education

Components of a Differentiated Learning Environment

A **Differentiated Learning Environment** is physically created and arranged with each student's specific needs in mind but cannot be completely differentiated without a social climate based on trust.



Ways to Differentiated Content / Curriculum

- Audio Books
- Audio Highlights
- Flip Books
- “Cliff” Notes
- Notetaking Organizers
- Varied Texts
- Supplementary Materials
- Highlighted Texts
- Reading Partners
 - Read/summarize
 - Read/question/answer
 - Visual Organizer
 - Parallel Reading with Teacher Prompts
 - “Think-Pair-Share”



Differentiated Assessment as A Tool

Assessments can be used to learn about a student's mastery of the content, readiness level, and background and interests.

- Initial skills assessment
- End of year exams
- Student surveys
- Writing samples
- Classroom discussion
- Teacher observation
- Parent input
- Student created products
- Student reflection, journals
- Group assessments
- Checklists
- Technology tools to foster engagement

Student Characteristics: Instruction

1. **Readiness Level:** Skills and understanding of a topic
2. **Interest Level:** Tasks that ignite student curiosity or passion
3. **Learning Profile:** Preferred learning style of each student



Tool: One Page Profiles

Parents and caregivers can help teachers get to know the child better

One-page profiles in Education

A one-page profile captures all the important information about a young person on a single sheet of paper under three simple headings:

1. What People Appreciate About Me
2. What's Important to Me
3. How Best to Support Me

<http://helensandersonassociates.co.uk/person-centred-practice/one-page-profiles/one-page-profile-templates/>

Templates of one page profiles

<http://helensandersonassociates.co.uk/person-centred-practice/one-page-profiles/one-page-profiles-education/primary-school/>

Sample of a child in Primary School – Jessenia

Collaboration & Communication Are Key

The IEP is the tool designed to help families and school personnel **plan for the future** success of children with disabilities when they exit public education.

Families need to feel their input is valued

Teachers appreciate feedback



Application Beyond the School Day

- Parent Counseling and Training
 - Assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child;
 - Providing parents with information about child development;
 - Helping parents acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP;

Tools & Resources

https://www.edutopia.org/article/differentiated-instruction-resources	Differentiated Instruction Resource
http://www.udlcenter.org/aboutudl/udlguidelines/downloads	Universal Design for Learning – Guidelines, Information
http://www.tnstep.org/uploads/files/All%20About%20Me%20Booklet%20-%20revised%20Mar%202015.pdf	STEP, Inc. – All About Me Other STEP Resources visit www.tnstep.org
http://www.parentcenterhub.org/?s=differentiated+instruction	Parent Center family friendly Differentiated Instruction info.
http://www.tnspdg.com/Access2CoreInstruction.aspx	TN State Personnel Development Grant
http://www.caroltomlinson.com/2010SpringASCD/Rex_SAstrategies.pdf	Differentiation – Carol Ann Tomlinson, EdD
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