

Special Education Words to Know: *Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)*

A key requirement for eligibility for special education and related services is that the student with a disability needs **specially designed instruction (SDI)** to address educational needs resulting from his or her disability. SDI means adapting the **content** of what is taught, the **methods** used to help the student acquire knowledge and skills, and the **delivery** of instruction.

CONTENT



Content refers to **what** is taught. It addresses the student's academic and functional needs, including behavior. Instruction is tied to grade-level standards.

METHOD(S)



Methodology is **how** students are taught. It includes specific evidence-based strategies and techniques and in what order educational or behavioral goals are taught.

DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION



The *delivery of instruction* refers to **who** provides SDI, as well as **when** and **where** it is delivered.

- SDI is developed by a special education teacher and related service providers. SDI can also be delivered by a general education teacher or EA in partnership with and trained by a special education teacher.
- Some students need their SDI daily and for a large part of the school day, while others may need SDI for a single class or activity.
- SDI may occur one-to-one or in a small group. It can happen in general education, a resource room, a fully self-contained classroom, as well as elsewhere on campus and in the community.

SDI is ...

- ✓ what the teacher does
- ✓ individualized to the student's unique needs
- ✓ a service
- ✓ directly tied to IEP goals
- ✓ instruction that helps the student make progress toward grade-level standards

SDI is not ...

- ✗ a location
- ✗ accommodations
- ✗ lowering expectations for student performance
- ✗ dictated by the bell schedule (for determining minutes in the IEP).

