



Specially designed instruction (SDI) is the adaptation, when appropriate, to address the unique needs of individual students with disabilities. Adaptations may address content, methodology, and/or delivery of instruction. The purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities can access the general education curriculum and meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children. SDI is organized, planned and implemented to address the student’s IEP goals. It is intentional and systematic. [WHAT IS SPECIALLY DESIGNED INSTRUCTION?](#) (Section 300.39(b)(3) of Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] and Friend, 2017).

Be Ready: to comply with The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) which defines special education as “specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability (20 United States Code [U.S.C].§ 1401(29).

Set learning in motion by delivering SDI with consideration of the following domains:

- Academic
- Organizational
- Behavioral
- Social
- Emotional
- Communicative, including speech and language
- Functional
- Physical/motor
- Sensory
- Vocational
- Technology
- Procedural, administrative, compliance (Friend, 2017).

For more information, ideas, resources and tools **Go** to:

www.ldonline.org/pdfs/njclld/SpeciallyDesignedInstructionTAP.pdf “adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible child under this part, the content, methodology or delivery of *instruction* (i) to address the unique needs of the child that result from the child's disability; and (ii) to ensure access of the child to the general.

Friend, M. (2015/16, December-January). Welcome to co-teach 2.0. *Educational Leadership*, 73(4), 16-22.

Friend, M. & Cook, L. (2017) *Interactions: Collaboration skills for professionals*. (8th Ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill/Pearson. What is special about special education...

This news brief is a collaborative effort of the Virginia Department of Education Training and Technical Assistance Centers at George Mason University and James Madison University. This issue was prepared by the staff of the VDOE TTAC at George Mason University. For questions about content, please contact Judith Fontana, PhD at jfontan1@gmu.edu or Katherine Nutt, PhD at knutt@gmu.edu or call 703.993.4496.