Specially Designed Instruction (SDI): *Blueprint for Success*

*Presented by*
Glenda Henderson
GaDOE Education Program Specialist

Educating Georgia’s Future by graduating students who are ready to learn, ready to live, and ready to lead.
Specially Designed Instruction
Best of Both Worlds
Learning Targets

• Participants will be able to define Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)
• Participants will be able to articulate the importance of SDI in face-to-face instruction and remote/distance learning
Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) is defined as...

Adapting as appropriate the content, methodology or delivery of instruction (i) to address the unique needs of a child that result from the child’s disability; and (ii) to ensure access of the child to the general curriculum, so that the child can meet the same educational standards within the Jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), C.F.R 34§300.39.
What is the Goal for Specially Designed Instruction?

• Enable students with disabilities to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum (34 CFR § 300.320(a)(2)(i)).

• Access to Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (34 CFR § 300.17).
Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) says that each child who has a disability and needs **special education** and **related services** will receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>F</th>
<th>Free means that all eligible students with disabilities will be educated at public expense.</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Appropriate means that your child with a disability is entitled to an education that is appropriate for him/her considering the IEP and progress in the general education curriculum.</td>
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<td>P</td>
<td>Public refers to the public-school system.</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Education must be provided to every eligible school-age child with a disability. The education should prepare the child for the future - employment, education and independent living.</td>
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[Understood.org](https://www.understood.org)
Specially Designed Instruction

**IS**

- Supplemental
- A service or support
- What an educator does
- Teaching specific skills identified as learning barriers
- Important features of a program and/or unique instruction
- Specific to the student (individualized)
- Supporting students in the general education setting and maintaining high expectations

**IS NOT**

- Supplant
- LRE Placement
- What a student does
- A restatement of the academic content standards being taught
- Naming a specific program that replaces a special education service
- Driven by programs or schedules
- Lowering expectations and/or removing students from the general education setting
Who provides Specially Designed Instruction?

*Special educators* and *related service providers* with specialization in the area of need, in *collaboration* with *general education* teachers to align and integrate with Georgia’s Standards of Excellence (GSE).
Where is Specially Designed Instruction delivered?

• SDI is a **service**, not a **place**
• SDI is not defined by where it occurs
• SDI must be provided in least restrictive environment (34 CFR § 300.17)
Designing the *Special* in SDI

It must be…

- Data Driven
- Planned and Purposeful
- Disability-Related
- Necessary for student to access and progress in the general curriculum
How is Specially Designed Instruction Monitored?

- Implementation of appropriate instructional accommodations to support students with accessing the GSE
- Progress Monitoring
- Analysis of Data (IEP goals, formative and/or summative assessments, growth on grade level standards)
- IEP Team Feedback
Specially Designed Instruction
Adapting the …..

Content
Refers to knowledge and skills being taught to the student with a disability are different from what is being taught to general education students.

Methodology
Refers to utilizing different instructional strategies and approaches to teach content to a student with disability, which may not be utilized with general education students.

Delivery
Refers to the way instruction is delivered to a student with a disability is different from how delivered to general education students.
SDI versus Accommodations

**SDI**
- Modify assignments to only include essential content
- Small group instruction outside of the general education setting
- Teach scaffolded instruction, visual, written, verbal, physical, picture prompts and cues
- Teach how to use multi-sensory strategies
- Teach explicit instruction on how to use a graphic organizer

**Accommodation**
- Extended time on timed assessments
- Limit oral questions to the number student can manage
- Large print
- Wear hearing aids or using FM system
- Bullets and numbering used when teaching concepts
Specially Designed Instruction (in the IEP)

Key areas of the IEP where Specially Designed Instruction is documented but it is not limited to a particular area

- Description of Needs
- Student Supports
- Impact Statement
- Supports for Personnel
Adapting as Appropriate Examples

Stephen is a student with a specific learning disability with deficits in the area of mathematical reasoning.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Adapting Content</th>
<th>Evidence-Based Methodology</th>
<th>Delivery of Instruction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remove extraneous information from the word problem that is not needed to solve the problem</td>
<td>Explicit instruction on how to use a graphic organizer: example and non-examples-charts to organize categories</td>
<td>Peer modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present as short answer questions instead of multiple choice</td>
<td>Visualization: color coding</td>
<td>1:1 explicit instruction to reteach the skill</td>
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Stephen requires specialized instruction in math reasoning due to difficulty representing problems in an equation and determining the best solution to word problems. The teacher may have the student explain their strategies when problem solving to expand solving options.
SDI
Distance Learning Environment

When general and special educators provide an introductory lesson using a recorded PowerPoint, Flipgrid or other means of asynchronous instruction, SDI could be provided through…

• Office Hours for check-ins to check for understanding
• Pre-teach a skill, concept or strategy before the whole class has the lesson
• Use an educational platform which student is more familiar
• Provide feedback and corrections
• Additional instructional activities
  • Scaffold instruction
  • Provide background information
SDI
Distance Learning Environment

• Record the class with closed captioning
• Describe all visuals as they are presented on screen
• One-on-one Google hangout session with special education teacher
## Examples of using SDI

### Common Accommodations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>IEP Accommodation</th>
<th>SDI for Distance/Remote Learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extra time processing</td>
<td>Send assignments and directions through text or email early</td>
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<tr>
<td>Check for understanding</td>
<td>Clarify Directions, video/audio record instructions or screenshot</td>
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<td>Peer Note-taker</td>
<td>Advanced notes, copy or fill in the blank templates emailed ahead of time</td>
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<td>Use of Calculator</td>
<td>On-line calculator, phone calculator</td>
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<td>Audio/oral presentation, read aloud</td>
<td>Text to speech or audio recording; video recording with caption</td>
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Top 10 Assistive Technology Supports for Every Classroom

- Using the technology/AT that is currently in the classroom
- Text to Speech (TTS)
- Audiobooks and/or Digital Books
- Speech to Text (Dictation)
- Built in Accessibility Options
  - PC - Ease of Access
  - Mac Book - Accessibility Options
  - Mobile Devices – Accessibility Options
- Graphic Organizers
- Using Extensions and/or Add-ons with internet browsers
- Mobile Devices
- Visual Supports (classroom and/or behavior management)
- Closed Captioning

Special Education Services and Supports - Assistive Technology
Bridging the Achievement Gap

Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (Where the student is now)

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<tr>
<th>Specially Designed Instruction</th>
<th>Georgia Standards of Excellence</th>
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<td>Adapting Content</td>
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<td>Adapting Methodology</td>
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<td>Adapting Instructional Delivery</td>
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<td>Addressing the unique needs of a child</td>
<td>Ensuring access of the child to the general curriculum</td>
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Richard Woods, Georgia’s School Superintendent | Georgia Department of Education | Educating Georgia’s Future
Resources

• Indiana Department of Education:  https://www.doe.in.gov/specialed

• Implementing Specially Designed Instruction in the Classroom:  
  https://www.esc4.net/Assets/20984-specially-designed-instruction

• Best Practices to Accommodate SDIs in Virtual Learning Environment

• Planning for Equitable Virtual Instruction

• Resources for Learning at Home

• DL #3: Effective Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Within the Distance Learning Environment: What in the World Does That Look Like?
Contact Information

Glenda Henderson

ghenderson@doe.k12.ga.us

470-725-4342