

Consultation

Definition:

1. A discussion, especially in order to ascertain opinions or reach an agreement
2. A meeting with an expert in a particular field to obtain advice



Consultation is part of the development of an effective support structure and enables teachers to meet the challenges of a diverse student population.

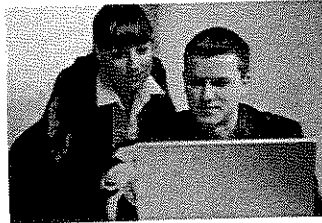
- Parents can provide information about specific student needs
- Partners will vary depending on individual student and/or teacher needs
- Special educators may consult with general educators about accommodations and instructional strategies

Why Now? No matter what kind of school you teach in, cooperative, consultative, collaborative partnerships with colleagues will provide a valuable support network, as well as, a forum for discussing student progress while identifying effective instruction and intervention. According to legislative policies, students with disabilities must have access to the general education curriculum. Teachers who work in isolation are becoming obsolete. The trend towards more inclusive settings has increased emphasis on providing the support for teachers and students. **Response to Intervention** is a progressive **process** that is shifting the roles of all educators from a reactive position to a **proactive and preventative** one. **Response to Intervention** is the practice of providing high-quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs based on data to make collaborative educational decisions. Consultative and collaborative partners can assist with all aspects of this process.

Collaboration

Definition:

1. The act of working together with one or more people in order to achieve something



Collaboration between all stakeholders (general and special education teachers, related service personnel, parents, administrators, interventionists) is essential for successfully including all students in the general education classrooms. Teachers must collaborate with a myriad of professionals at different levels to improve teaching and learning outcomes for their students. In order to provide access to the general curriculum, educators must provide support to all students academically, socially, and behaviorally.

- Identify general education standards and expectations for each student (academic and behavioral)
- Identify instructional strategies
- Select interventions matched to student need
- Share responsibility for improved student outcomes
- Use appropriate accommodations and interventions with fidelity
- Discuss strategies that allow students to access the curriculum
- Problem solve using data
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- Celebrate all teacher and student achievements!

Collaborative Dialogues



How do you create opportunities for students with disabilities to succeed in the general education classroom?

These strategies include discussion of student performance relative to classroom expectations and curriculum content for:

- ❖ Identify areas of **student breakdown in learning** (Through discussion or observation identify where students are having trouble learning or applying what they know)
- ❖ **Identify organizational, social, and behavioral obstacles** within the classroom culture (How do the students fit into the classroom structure? Does he/she have trouble with organization? What supports do they need to experience success in the classroom?)
- ❖ Identify **natural supports within the classroom culture** (peer buddies)
- ❖ Select **effective strategies** to enable students to access curriculum (Does the student require a planner, auditory text, or visual aids to be successful?)
- ❖ Identify the **meaningful curriculum** content for individual students (accommodations and modification)
- ❖ Identify aspects of the “**hidden curriculum**” that are a mystery to many students with disabilities (teachers often assume students understand appropriate seatwork behaviors, tone of voice, respecting personal space, how to ask for help.)
- ❖ Assess student outcomes and identify effective interventions

Adapted with permission. Hentz, S. (2006) *Teach Smart: Practical Strategies and Tools for Educators*