Action & Expression

Goal: Give students flexible ways to show what they know.

Options for Interactions

Learning materials and environments should be designed to support diverse interaction and navigation needs. Traditional formats like printed textbooks and rigid classroom layouts can create barriers for some learners, including those with physical disabilities, learning challenges or executive functioning needs. Materials should integrate seamlessly with assistive technology. Likewise, flexible physical spaces with adjustable seating and tools can enhance engagement. Providing multiple ways to interact with learning tools and environments ensures that all learners can navigate, respond, and participate effectively.

- Allow for different ways to interact with materials and peers.
- Offer choices in how students respond (e.g., writing, speaking, performing).
- Provide opportunities for movement and collaboration.
- Ensure the learning environment is physically and digitally accessible to all.

- Provide choices in how to engage with a resource: video, article, or interactive simulation to learn a concept, use audio, read independently, or read with a partner.
- Offer interactive graphic organizers (Digital or Print): Lucidchart or Google Drawings, Frayer models for vocabulary.
- Embed digital scaffolds: hyperlinks, use a visual to call attention to an area/action (emojis).
- Provide audio-supported or multi-sensory content exploration: Listen to a podcast or audio version of a reading, use read-aloud tools, tactile manipulatives or color-coding text while reading.
- Offer flexible note-taking methods: Sketchnotes or mind-mapping, voice memos summarizing key point, collaborative digital notes (e.g., shared Google Docs, Canva, Google Suite, AI tools).
- Provide a variety of opportunities to respond: Turn & Talk/Peer Dialogue, Sentence Starters, Pair/Share, Math Talks/Talk Moves/Habits of Mind.
- Encourage student-led discussions, debates, or Socratic seminars.
- Chunk content with checkpoints: Break long texts/videos into segments, Nearpod, add response prompts between sections, use reflection tools like Canva, Figjam or Padlet after each chunk.
- Facilitate peer interaction through think-pair-share and small group discussions.
- Encourage student-led discussions, collaborative projects, and peer feedback through structured protocols.
- Arrange furniture to support movement, collaboration, and quiet work (e.g., flexible seating, standing desks, small group areas, floor space).
- Create an independent work space, quiet zones, or a low-stimulation area for students who may need a space to refocus.

Options for Expression & Communication

No single form of expression works for all learners or all types of communication. Some media may be less effective for certain learners or learning goals, making it essential to offer multiple ways for learners to express their knowledge and ideas. Providing diverse tools for communication, creativity, and composition ensures that learners can share their thinking in ways that align with their strengths. Gradually releasing scaffolds helps build fluency and independence.

- Provide multiple ways for students to demonstrate learning (e.g., presentations, projects, tests, writing, speaking, videos, art).
- Allow students to use a variety of tools for construction, composition, and creativity.
- Provide frames or routines as scaffolds for students.
- Allow for multilingual expression when possible.

- Compose using multiple media such as text, speech, drawing, illustration, design, film, music, dance/movement, visual art, sculpture, or video.
- Allow use of infographics, podcasts, slideshows, or other multimedia formats.
- Provide software supports like text-to-speech, voice recognition, human dictation, spell checkers, grammar checkers, and word prediction.
- Offer specialized tools such as calculators, graphing calculators, geometric sketch pads, Computer-Aided Design (CAD), music notation, or mathematical notation software.
- Use digital or physical manipulatives (e.g., blocks, 3D models, base-ten blocks) to support hands-on learning.
- Provide sentence starters or sentence strips to guide student expression.
- Use story webs, outlining tools, or concept mapping software to help organize ideas.
- Offer multiple practice formats (guided practice, games, peer collaboration, independent work) to match different learning preferences.
- Give feedback that guides students in making learning choices, suggesting strategies, supports, or challenges aligned to their goals.
- Use technology tools that allow personalized feedback delivery, such as comment banks in Google Docs or adaptive learning platforms.

Options for Strategy Development

Executive functions, which enable purposeful and skillful action, are crucial for learning. These functions help individuals develop strategies, set and achieve goals, and adapt based on progress. UDL practices enhance executive functioning skills by scaffolding both lower-level skills to reduce cognitive load and higher-level skills for more effective learning. This includes supporting learners in setting meaningful goals, planning for challenges, organizing resources, monitoring progress, and fostering inclusive learning environments.

- Help students set personal learning goals and track their progress.
- Help students plan, organize, and manage their work.
- Support organization and memory using flexible tools and processes.
- Analyze growth over time and how to build from it.
- Offer guided practice and scaffolding to develop independent problem-solving skills.
- Teach self-assessment strategies to encourage reflection and growth.

- Break long-term goals into manageable short-term targets to build motivation through achievable steps (e.g., checklists, unit calendars, progress check points).
- Incorporate interests and strengths into goal-setting to make goals more meaningful and personalized.
- Show representations of progress (e.g., before and after photos, graphs and charts showing progress over time, process portfolios).
- Provide checklists and project planning templates for understanding the problem, setting up prioritization, sequences, and schedules of steps.
- Model and provide graphic organizers to support planning and organization.
  - Use personalized checklists for students who need extra support with memory or task management.
- Include reminders to select appropriate tools or resources at each stage (e.g., “Choose a graphic organizer to plan your ideas”).
- Use checklists or rubrics to clarify expectations and guide students.
  - Learning targets and success criteria to provide clarity
  - Magic School AI Feedback tool
- Offer guiding questions such as: What do I know? What information do I need? What are the steps I will take?
- Provide anchor charts for reinforcement of strategies and consistent practice.
- Provide extended time, movement breaks, or pacing options for students who need a different rhythm of learning.
- Use formative assessments like exit tickets or quick quizzes with immediate feedback.
- Provide progress check-ins where students compare their work to the learning goals or rubrics.
- Help students set specific, actionable next steps based on feedback (e.g., “Try adding more examples to support your argument”).