

## LESSONS THAT ENGAGE: DESIGNING INSTRUCTION THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF DIVERSE LEARNERS

Across the country, differentiated, universal instruction is the biggest missed opportunity for ensuring that students with disabilities make progress in school. Specially designed instruction (SDI) is both the lynchpin of an effective special education program and the most overlooked and underrated component. While SDI is traditionally seen as a special education teacher's responsibility, diverse learners are often taught by other educators who may not have the knowledge and skills to implement SDI for the students who need it most. All educators can and should master these important skills, and this course teaches them how.

### Course Description

This full-day professional learning course is designed to provide educators with a foundational understanding of the core components of SDI and the methods that can be applied to provide students with disabilities with the appropriate instruction to meet their needs. Educators will also be introduced to a decision-making process and planning tool that they will use to plan engaging instruction during a facilitated planning session.

### Feedback from Course Participants

*"I love how in-depth our sessions were and the laser focus on accommodating student work. It was definitely collective learning that needed to happen. It was by far the most impactful PD throughout the two weeks [of summer institute]. It was extremely applicable to my role and helped fill the content knowledge gaps I have."*

- Elementary School Academic Specialist

*"I loved The Ability Challenge's workshops. There were so many resources and a-ha moments...that was phenomenal."*

- Special Education Teacher Leader

### Learning Outcomes

Throughout the course, participants will:

- Develop a shared definition of specialized instruction, accommodations, and modifications - core considerations you have to be evaluated as you plan for student needs
- Identify how the quality of a chosen modification impacts student outcomes
- Generate core considerations for planning to address specific student needs
- Apply a decision-making process for specialized instruction to plan instruction for their students incorporating the core considerations

## Course Breakdown

### Part I (half day):

- Developing a Common Definition of Specially Designed Instruction
- Analyzing Current Practices: Self-Reflection
- Sample SDI Plans
- Co-Creating Core Considerations for Planning

### Part II (half day):

- Introducing the SDI Decision Tree and Planning Tool
- Supported Planning Time