

## THE ART OF SPECIALLY DESIGNED INSTRUCTION

Across the country, specially designed instruction is the biggest missed opportunity for ensuring that students with disabilities make progress in school. Also known as specialized instruction or SDI, specially designed instruction is both the lynchpin of an effective special education program and the component that is most overlooked and underrated. Often, the Special Education teachers responsible for providing SDI do not have the space and time to collaborate with their peers, leaving general educators without the knowledge and skills to implement SDI for the students who need it most.

### Course Description

This full-day professional learning course is designed to provide educators with a foundational understanding of the core components of Specialized Instruction (SI) and the methods that can be applied to provide students receiving Special Education services with the appropriate SI to meet their needs. Educators will also be introduced to a decision-making process and planning tool that they will use to plan specialized 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 [SDI] 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