

# Implementing Accommodations and Modifications to Support Behavior and Engagement Needs

## Tips for Supporting Special Populations in Online Environments

1

### Communicate with Parents & Families

Working **collaboratively** with parents and families is significant for blended and online learning, as this helps teachers connect to students and get to know their needs better. Ideas:

- Host regular meetings with parents and families
- Encourage everyone to share their concerns
- Provide examples for how to use check-in/check-out sheets



2

### Support Mental Health

A **sound mind** is more likely to engage with online learning materials and activities. Ideas:

- Send emails to share online resources with students and parents/families
- Help parents and families connect to the needed associated services



3

### Encourage Independence

Parents and families will likely not be available at all times, so it is important for teachers to help students to become **independent learners**. Ideas:

- Help students set up a routine
- Adapt expectations, such as short working periods
- Ensure students have access to necessary technology and know how to use it

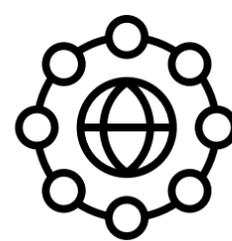


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### Cultivate Community

**Connections** with students and among students are important in building an online community. Ideas:

- Encourage interactions among peers by setting up small-group activities that require students to work collaboratively on an assigned task
- Set up regular virtual meetings to check in with individual students to address their needs and concerns

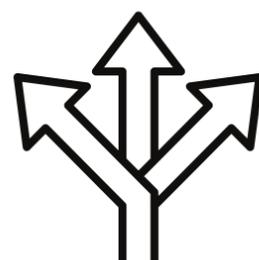


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### Adapt Assignments

**Adapting** assignments respects diversity and provides students better online learning experiences. Ideas:

- Allow students some more time to complete lessons activities and assignments when initial deadlines are not met
- Provide students with multiple options in how they show understanding and mastery



#### References

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- Storey, R. (2020, September 14). *5 Ways to Engage Parents of Students in Special Education Programs During Remote Learning*. Riverside Insights. <https://blog.riversideinsights.com/engage-parents-students-special-education-remote-learning>