

Six Co-Teaching Strategies



One Teach, One Assist

One teacher acts as the primary teacher while the other assists and supports the learners. The co-teacher assists by monitoring student work, addressing behavior issues, answering student questions, distributing materials, or asking the lead teacher to clarify any developing student misconceptions.



One Teach, One Observe

One teacher acts as the primary teacher while the other gathers specific observational information on student learning such as students' academic, behavioral, and social skills while in the classroom. Roles can switch depending on the topic or interests of the teacher, however this strategy is only meant to be used occasionally.



Station Teaching

Co-teachers divide their class into small groups to provide instruction at separate stations. Activities should be designed to function independently of each other and require approximately the same amount of time with student groups rotating stations. This approach reduces the student-teacher ratio, increasing student participation and effective monitoring of the students.



Parallel Teaching

Co-teachers divide the class in half and instruct them on the same material; groups don't rotate. Parallel teaching allows the co-teachers to maximize participation and minimize behavior problems. This approach reduces the student-teacher ratio and increases instructional intensity. Co-teachers will need to be cognizant of timing and pacing when using this strategy.



Alternative (Differentiated) Teaching

One teacher manages a large group of students while the other takes a small group for a specific instructional purpose. This approach provides instructional flexibility and can be used for enrichment, remediation, assessment, or pre-teaching, as well as for using alternative methods of providing lesson input.



Team Teaching

Both teachers are often in the front of the classroom, sharing the responsibilities of lead instruction, with equally active, but possibly different, roles in a lesson. This approach can enhance teacher creativity, encourage collaboration, and energize students. This strategy should be used occasionally as more subtle student needs can be missed when grouping is not being used.