Effective Co-Teaching Strategies: What Does the Research Say?

What is co-teaching?
- Two teachers delivering substantive instruction to diverse students in a single physical space.
- Must include two educators
- One teacher specializes in understanding, structuring, and pacing the curriculum, as well as outcomes for typically developing students.
- One teacher specializes in identifying unique learning needs & enhancing the curriculum & instruction to meet the special needs of individual students.
- Both professionals are actively involved in the planning, instruction, and measuring outcomes of students.
- Diverse class consisting of typical students & students with disabilities
- Occurs primarily in a single classroom.
- Ideally, in classrooms where co-teaching occurs, the teachers co-create goals, co-instruct, collaborate on student assessment and class management, and jointly make decisions pertaining to their class.

What are the essential components?
- Administrative Support
- Effective Communication
- Establishing Roles
- Individual Space
- Similar Philosophies
- Grading/Evaluation of Students
- Avoiding the Paraprofessional Trap
- Ongoing Training/Professional Development
- Content knowledge of all resources
- Varied instructional Practices
- Time to discuss all of these things prior to school starting
- Established Planning Time

Adapted from: Kimberly McDuffie, Katherine Robbins, and Jennifer J. Huber – Clemson University
Goal: Increased Student Learning

State Initiatives to schools

Race to the Top Initiatives

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

Co-Teaching

Partnerships

University
...prepare teacher candidates for careers with more hands-on experiences
...increased curriculum training (i.e. parallel, complementary, station, alternative, team and shared teaching)
...collaboration training
...Excellent source for action research
...professional growth

Field and Student Teachers
...useful tool in classroom management, assessments, ...more participation time
...more experience, more confidence
...more complex activities
...improved collaborative skills
...teachers collaborate to share their expertise and skills
...instructional time sustained

School Districts and Teachers
...basis for mentors to teach novice teachers
...professional development
...more complex activities
...improved collaborative skills
...shared responsibilities
...more curriculum covered
...double the opportunities to assist students
...more opportunities to take risks and grow professionally
...lowered student-teacher ratio
...increased differentiated instruction

P-12 Students
...Provides intervention (remediation, reinforcement, enrichment)
...more student participation time
...active engagement
...collaborative role modeling improves student social skills
...more potential for data collection for individual students
...exposed to diverse teaching techniques
...more opportunities for successful learning experiences
...enhanced sense of responsibility

Parents and Community
...child receives more personal attention in the classroom
...stronger likelihood of identification of giftedness and/or special needs
...child has more successful learning experience
...teachers can extend varied educational materials to parents for continued support at home
...school rating contributes to home value