



Supporting Special Populations Students in CTE

A self-paced online course for CTE leaders
and instructors



Module 2

Introduction to Students with Disabilities

Who Are Students with Disabilities?

- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 defines the term ‘disability,’ with respect to an individual as:
 - a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
 - a record of such an impairment; or
 - being regarded as having such an impairment.

Did you know? About 29% of Pennsylvania CTE students are identified as individuals with disabilities.



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What is IDEA?

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) applies to public education across the United States and its territories.
- Free appropriate public education (FAPE)
- Includes early intervention, special education, and related services
- More than 7.5 million (as of school year 2018-19) eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Available to students up to 21, in some circumstances.
- Special education is a school responsibility, not just that of the classroom teacher.

Take Into Consideration.....

- Wide range of students
- Unique barriers
- Tailored supports and services
- One in 10 students qualify for special education services, and more in CTE



What is Section 504?

- Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act provides for accommodations of students with a disability, even if they do not have an Individualized Education Program.
- Teachers and staff need to provide accommodations under Section 504 when called for.

Types of Disabilities

- Hearing loss
- Low vision or blindness
- Learning disabilities, such as Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyslexia, or Dyscalculia
- Mobility disabilities
- Chronic health disorders, such as Epilepsy, Crohn's disease, Arthritis, Cancer, Diabetes, migraine headaches, or Multiple Sclerosis
- Psychological or psychiatric disabilities, such as mood, anxiety, and depressive disorders, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Asperger's disorder and other Autism spectrum disorders
- Traumatic Brain Injury

Make sure to ask to review the IEPs for students in your classes



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Supports for Students with Disabilities

Special Education:

Special education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

- Take advantage of 40+ years of expertise
- Adapting instruction focuses on both the What and the How.



▶ Individualized Education Program

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written agreement between the school and the parents of a student.
- The IEP explains and guarantees the services that will be provided
- Two purposes of the IEP:
 - Measurable annual goals for the student
 - Detail the special education and related services the school will provide to the the student.

Specially Designed Instruction

- SDI means “adaptation of the content, the methodology, or the delivery of instruction to the student.”
- SDI must meet the “unique needs” of the student related to their disability.
- Ensure access to the general curriculum, including that of the CTE program
- The CTE instructor should:
 - Understand the SDI as identified in the IEP, and
 - Know how to implement the SDI.



▶ Examples of SDI in a CTE Classroom

- Extended test time
- Alternative note taking strategies
- Graphic organizers
- Modeling of behavior
- Visual prompts
- Preferential seating

▶ Modifications and Accommodations

- Terms are often used interchangeably, but there are specific meanings for each term.
- **Modification** means a change in what is being taught to or expected from the student.
- **Accommodation** is a change that helps a student overcome or work around the disability.



CTE and Special Education

- A secondary student with a disability may opt to enroll in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program.
- In Pennsylvania, CTE is offered both at the district's high school or through a Career and Technical Center (CTC).
- The school's IEP team (which includes the CTE teacher) works with the student and family to make sure that CTE is the appropriate choice.
- CTE teachers should work closely with the school IEP team.

Special Education Students in CTE

- Perkins V focuses on the development of employability skills of all students through CTE, including special populations, such as individuals with disabilities.
- From 2008 through 2018, the number of high school students participating in CTE was consistent nationwide.
- During that same period, there was a 73 percent increase nationwide of special education students enrolling in CTE at the secondary level.
- Participation grew from less than 500,000 in 2008 to more than 800,000 in 2018; from 1 to 8 percentage points across the U.S.

Source: [https://www.nsba.org/ASBJ/2019/October/CTE-Special-Education#:~:text=Special%20Ed%20Students%20in%20CTE&text=The%20number%20of%20high%20school,2018%20\(approximately%207.6%20million\)](https://www.nsba.org/ASBJ/2019/October/CTE-Special-Education#:~:text=Special%20Ed%20Students%20in%20CTE&text=The%20number%20of%20high%20school,2018%20(approximately%207.6%20million))



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Benefits of CTE to Special Education Students

Research demonstrates positive impact of CTE on:

- school completion,
- employment, and
- postsecondary education participation.

Through CTE programs, students with disabilities develop:

- job-specific technical skills,
- workplace skills,
- independent living skills, and
- interpersonal skills.



Module Two Resources

[Association for Career & Technical Education: Individuals with Disabilities Act.](#)

[Understanding Career and Technical Education and Special Education: What IEP Teams Need to Know](#)

[Strategies for Serving Special Populations in CTE](#)

[Resource Guide: Publications & Electronic Resources Relating to Special Populations](#)

Module Two Assignment

Please complete the Module Two Prompts (Reflection Journal).

- This module contains a lot of information. What are you wondering about?
- What is the purpose of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) in special education?
- What are two strategies or concepts you have learned about from the resources that you can use to support your students with disabilities? (Identify the resources for each strategy or concept).

Contact/Mission

For more information on supporting special populations students in CTE, please visit PDE's website at www.education.pa.gov

The mission of the department is to academically prepare children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. The department seeks to ensure that the technical support, resources and opportunities are in place for all students, whether children or adults, to receive a high-quality education.

