

SDI in Virtual Learning Environments

This document identifies adaptations and digital tools that may be used to address common SDIs, accommodations and modifications when implemented in virtual and hybrid learning environments. Please refer to [the SSDVE Technology Resources Hub](#) (tinyurl.com/ssdvetech) for a curated list of the digital tools and resources.

About SDI

“**Specially designed instruction**’ means adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible child, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction:

1. To address the unique needs of the child that result from the child’s disability;
2. To ensure access of the child to the general curriculum, so that the child can meet the educational standards that apply to all children within the jurisdiction of the local educational agency.” (34 CFR 300.39(b)(3); IDEA, 2004)

<i>Specially Designed Instruction (SDI):</i>	
IS...	IS NOT...
Adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction, as appropriate, to the needs of an eligible child.	To supplant core classroom instruction
A service or support	The student’s educational placement (LRE)
Provided by the educator/staff/school personnel/primary caregivers/ family	What the student does
Teaching specific skills to access content and reduce barriers to learning	A restatement of the academic standards
Explicit, comprehensive and differentiated	A specific program
Individualized to the student	Driven by programs or schedules
Maintaining academic rigor and high expectations in the general education setting	Reducing expectations or removing students from the general education setting
Promoting independence	Promoting dependence
Presuming competence	Presuming incompetence

Please note: This document is not an exhaustive list, and is not intended to present legal advice. Specific questions concerning a student’s special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in a child’s IEP (Individualized Educational Program) should be directed to ConsultLine at 800-879-2301

Common Types of SDI

**This list provides general examples, not specific SDIs, and is not exhaustive*

Strategies	Virtual Alternative	Digital Tools
Teacher modeling	Synchronous small group or 1:1 virtual meeting or pre-recorded videos	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams ; Loom , Screencastify , iMovie
Providing guided practice with corrective feedback	Learning management system; small group or 1:1 virtual meeting	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams , Google Forms , Google Classroom
Repeated reading	Multimedia presentations, recording, screencasts	Google slides , Powerpoint , Zoom ; Loom , Screencastify
Scaffolding instruction	Learning management system	Google Classroom , Schoology
Visual prompting	Presentations, small group or 1:1 virtual meeting	Google slides , Powerpoint , Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams
Verbal prompting	Recording, small group or 1:1 virtual meeting	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams
Physical prompting	small group or 1:1 virtual meeting	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams
Direct instruction	small group or 1:1 virtual meeting	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams
Explicit instruction	small group or 1:1 virtual meeting	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams
Multi-sensory instruction (Multimodal instruction)	Multimedia presentations	Google slides , Powerpoint ,
Preferential seating	Changing location at home as needed	No digital Tool needed

Please note: This document is not an exhaustive list, and is not intended to present legal advice. Specific questions concerning a student's special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in a child's IEP (Individualized Educational Program) should be directed to ConsultLine at 800-879-2301

Small group instruction	Breakout rooms	Zoom
One-on-one instruction	Breakout rooms	Zoom
Repetition	Recording, presentations Screencasts	Zoom , Loom , Screencastify
Instruction in problem solving strategies	graphic organizer tool, whiteboards, Slides	Miro , Educreations , Explain everything , Zoom whiteboard , Jamboard
Instruction in use of graphic organizers	graphic organizer tool, whiteboards, Slides	Miro , Educreations , Explain everything , Zoom whiteboard , Jamboard
Pre-viewing	Communication, Learning Management system	Schoology , Google Classroom
Re-teaching	Recording, Presentations Screencasts, Live session	Google Slides , Zoom recording, Loom , Screencastify

Please note: This document is not an exhaustive list, and is not intended to present legal advice. Specific questions concerning a student's special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in a child's IEP (Individualized Educational Program) should be directed to ConsultLine at 800-879-2301

Accommodations & Modifications

Note: Keep in mind that SDIs include both accommodations and modifications, as well as the associated instructional components.

Accommodations	Modifications
Levels the playing fields	Changes the playing field
Accommodations do not reduce learning expectations. Accommodations meet specific instruction and assessment needs of students with disabilities and allow educators to know that measures of students' work are valid.	Modifications refer to practices that change, lower or reduce learning expectations. Modifications change the underlying construct of an assessment.

Example		
Grade level assignment	Grade level assignment with acomodation	Grade level assignment with modification
A student must find a perimeter.	A student is given a formula sheet to show how to solve for perimeter	A student is given an example with step by step directions (modeling) first and then asked to find a perimeter. A student can show that the perimeter is the distance around the outside.

Social / Behavioral SDIs		
Classroom	Virtual Alternative	Digital Tools
Accommodations: HOW		
Positive reinforcement	Video filter, intro music, digital stickers, etc	Zoom , Seesaw
Behavior modeling	Modeling virtual norms	Zoom , Loom , Screencastify

Please note: This document is not an exhaustive list, and is not intended to present legal advice. Specific questions concerning a student's special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in a child's IEP (Individualized Educational Program) should be directed to ConsultLine at 800-879-2301

Take frequent breaks / movement breaks	Scheduled brain breaks	Embed videos / links
Daily check-in or 1:1 meeting	Small group or 1:1 virtual meetings	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams
Modifications: <i>WHAT</i>		
Behavior modeling	Individualized behavior modeling	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams

Instructional SDIs

Classroom	Virtual Alternative	Digital Tools
Accommodations: HOW		
Audio recording of text	Text-to-speech	Immersive Reader , Adobe Reader Read Out Loud , Snap and Read
Spoken directions	Speech-to-text	Loom
Record lesson	Record and post lesson	Loom , Zoom , Skype for Business , MS Onenote , MS Powerpoint , MS Teams
Highlight text	Browser extensions or tools embedded in word processing apps	Kami
Repeated material	Screencasts	Screencastify , Loom
Less/larger text	Magnifier functions, Text Size	(Google Chrome: Ctrl and + / -) (Windows: Windows Logo Key and + / -) (Mac: Command Key and + / -) Adobe Reader magnification tools

Please note: This document is not an exhaustive list, and is not intended to present legal advice. Specific questions concerning a student's special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in a child's IEP (Individualized Educational Program) should be directed to ConsultLine at 800-879-2301

Extended time	Extended due-dates	Google Classroom
Chunking of material	Spread material across multiple forms, docs by instructor	Google Forms / Docs
Clear parsed instructions	Checklists	Google Docs
Project alternatives	Multimedia presentations	Flipgrid , Google Slides
Class routine/ procedures	Apps for virtual task management;	Boom Cards
Math manipulatives	Paper printables, send home, virtual	Geoboard Chrome extension , Desmos EquatIO (accessible Equation OCR tool)
Structured Literacy	Decodable Text	Newsela
Modifications: <i>WHAT</i>		
Project alternatives	Multimedia presentations	Flipgrid , Google Slides
Modified assignments	Learning Management System for asynchronous tasks	Google Classroom

Student Work SDIs		
Classroom	Virtual Alternative	Digital Tools
Accommodations: HOW		
Visual representation	Whiteboards, slides	Google Slides , Miro , Educreations
Minimize auditory distractions	White noise	Noisli

Please note: This document is not an exhaustive list, and is not intended to present legal advice. Specific questions concerning a student's special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in a child's IEP (Individualized Educational Program) should be directed to ConsultLine at 800-879-2301

Preferred response format	Dictation, recording	Flipgrid , dictation in Google Docs
Modifications: <i>WHAT</i>		
Preferred response format	Dictation, recording	Flipgrid , dictation in Google Docs

Physical SDIs		
Classroom	Virtual Alternative	Digital Tools
Accommodations: HOW		
Text rendering	Annotating text	Kami
Reading aloud	Text-to-speech	Immersive Reader , Adobe Reader Read Out Loud
Visuals	Screen sharing	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams
Flexible Seating	Changing location at home as needed	No digital tools needed
Visual Accommodations	Web Access tools	accessiBe
FM System / personal amplification	Captioning of videos	YouTube , Google Slides
Modifications: <i>WHAT</i>		
Reading aloud	Text-to-speech	Immersive Reader

Please note: This document is not an exhaustive list, and is not intended to present legal advice. Specific questions concerning a student's special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in a child's IEP (Individualized Educational Program) should be directed to ConsultLine at 800-879-2301

Collaboration SDIs

Classroom	Virtual Alternative	Digital Tools
Accommodations: HOW		
Shared / guided notes	Shared doc	Google Docs
Small group learning	Breakout rooms, virtual synchronous (live) meet-ups in virtual meeting environments	Zoom breakout rooms
Guardian communication	Messaging services	Remind , Smore
Student portfolios	Online portfolios	LiveBinder , Google Drive , Padlet , Trello
Modifications: <i>WHAT</i>		
Student portfolios	Online portfolios	LiveBinder , Google Drive , Padlet

Self-Efficacy / Executive Functioning SDIs

Classroom	Virtual Alternative	Digital Tools
Accommodations: HOW		
Time management	Timers	WasteNoTime Chrome extension
Routines and schedules	Multiple representations	Google Classroom , calendar invites
Modifications: <i>WHAT</i>		
Daily check-ins	Virtual daily meeting	Zoom , Google Meet , MS Teams

Please note: This document is not an exhaustive list, and is not intended to present legal advice. Specific questions concerning a student's special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in a child's IEP (Individualized Educational Program) should be directed to ConsultLine at 800-879-2301