

## **Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Observation Tool**

This tool is designed for special education directors, coordinators and instructional coaches to support both general education and special education teachers in implementing inclusive practices that incorporate specially designed instruction (SDI) into co-taught lessons and activities. This can be used during formal observations and in instructional coaching settings and is intended to promote conversation and be used in conjunction with review meetings after observations.

### **Pre-Observation Questions:**

Describe the SDI you have incorporated into the lesson that will be observed.

How have you & your co-teacher planned for the delivery of SDI?

Who will be delivering SDI?

Where (or at what point in time) will the SDI occur?

What is the SDI that will be observed?

What modifications or accommodations will be observed during SDI instruction?

What adaptations will be implemented for access to the general education curriculum?

How is the SDI connected to student IEPs or IEP goals?

How will students' progress be measured?

**Observable SDI Behavior Checklist:**

- Teacher modeling
- Specific prompts used for specific students
- Graphic organizers or manipulatives were used with students
- Small groups or one-on-one instruction for teaching was used
- Color coding was used
- Cooperative Learning Structures were present
- Organizational tools were present for lesson
- Differentiated instructional material was given to select students
- Use of different approaches for gathering feedback from students was present
- Teachers provide feedback to students
- Explicit instruction was present
- Different modalities of presentation of information (visuals, audio recording)
- Social skills instruction was incorporated
- Pre Teaching or re teaching was done during lesson
- Physical adaptations are made for certain students
- Self-paced or individually-paced learning activities were performed

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Steps for Feedback and Discussion:**

Were any SDI particularly successful?

What evidence shows success?

Do any instructional approaches need to be revisited or updated?

Does data collected need to be altered?

Did students demonstrate mastery of specific areas?

Have previous recommendations and feedback been incorporated?

This list is not exhaustive and questions and criteria may be presented in multiple ways or customized based on school populations and needs.