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Co-Teaching and the Co-Taught Classroom

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It's the beginning of another school year, and your child is starting the year off with a brand new IEP that includes co-teaching for some of his or her classes. What exactly is co-teaching? Keep reading to learn all about co-teaching, the co-taught classroom, and how this will benefit your child.

You might be wondering about the “why” of co-teaching. Why are students with disabilities in a co-taught class, and what are the benefits?

What is Co-Teaching?



- Co-teaching is when two teachers, often a general education teacher and a special education teacher, are paired together in the general education classroom to teach and support all the students in that classroom.



- The two teachers are equally responsible for the classroom, from planning to instruction to assessment. The special education teacher will ensure students are receiving the services outlined in their IEPs, that their accommodations are being met, and data is collected on the goals and objectives in their IEPs.

Why Co-Teaching?



- Under the federal law protecting students with disabilities, students with disabilities are entitled to a free and public education in the least restrictive environment.



- For many students with disabilities, a co-taught class, with a general education and special education teacher in the same classroom, is the least restrictive environment.



- A co-taught classroom allows students with disabilities the greatest access to the general education curriculum and access to their non-disabled peers, which has positive social and academic outcomes for all students.



- A co-taught classroom also allows each student more one-on-one time and support from teachers.



A co-taught classroom is a rich, inclusive, and supportive environment for all learners, with a great amount of opportunity for one-on-one and small group instruction.

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Resources:

<https://publishing.cast.org/stories-resources/stories/co-teaching-introduction-inclusion-stein>

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