

Special Populations Summary for 2S2 State Improvement Plan

Timeline: Spring 2024 Michigan Occupational Special Populations Conference

Activity 2: Compile and Distribute Resources for Supporting Special Populations and Students of Color in Math Achievement

The Special Populations Coordinator compiled and disseminated targeted resources to support special populations students and students of color in math achievement. These resources were shared with key stakeholders, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) administrators, special populations coordinators, and Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) staff. The compiled strategies emphasize differentiated instruction and culturally responsive approaches, including:

- **Small Group Instruction:** Providing targeted interventions to students in smaller groups to enhance understanding.
- **Reteaching and Accommodations:** Offering individualized accommodations and reteaching essential math concepts to ensure mastery.
- **Flipped Classroom Approach:** Assigning math notes and practice problems as homework, followed by in-class discussions and reteaching sessions to address student questions and misconceptions.
- **Co-Teaching Models:** Partnering with math teachers or paraprofessionals within CTE classrooms to support students struggling with embedded math concepts in the CTE curriculum.
- **Use of Assistive Technology:** Incorporating platforms like Alt + Shift to provide students with access to digital math materials, enabling them to learn through multiple modalities.
- **Math Games and Hands-On Activities:** Engaging students through interactive, hands-on exercises to enhance math comprehension.
- **Real-Life Math Applications:** Integrating real-world scenarios to demonstrate the practical application of math concepts, making the content more relatable and accessible.

The Special Populations Coordinator gathered these best practices and strategies by attending several professional conferences and workshops, including the:

- **2024 Michigan Transition Services Association Conference**
- **2024 Michigan Occupational Special Populations Association Conference**
- **Opportunities in Math and CTE Workshop (October 7, 2024)**

As part of the Opportunities in Math and CTE Workshop planning committee, the Coordinator collaborated with other experts, shared resources such as relevant textbooks, and collected additional insights to further refine strategies for supporting math achievement.

To maintain ongoing communication and provide continuous support, the Coordinator facilitated **two quarterly technical assistance calls**—one in Spring 2024 and one in Fall 2024—with special populations coordinators. These calls provided a platform for sharing best practices, identifying emerging needs, and discussing strategies to improve math outcomes for students of color and special populations. Moving forward, the Coordinator will continue hosting periodic calls with participants interested in ongoing collaboration.

Additionally, the Coordinator will continue **publication of the Equity and Special Populations Newsletter** to disseminate math strategies and best practices to OCTE staff, administrators, and special populations coordinators. This newsletter will serve as a key communication tool for ensuring that math achievement remains a priority and that stakeholders are informed about the latest resources and strategies.

The efforts outlined above align with the goals of the Perkins State Improvement Plan by equipping CTE educators with the necessary tools to improve math outcomes for special populations students and students of color.