

Reaching All Students

Three strategies will help you teach and reach all students. Vary your delivery to keep students awake and interested in learning. Encourage all students to do their best and let them know that you believe they can succeed. Apply proven teaching techniques to keep student interest and monitor whether they are learning.

Vary Your Delivery

- Modulate your voice. Avoid speaking too fast or in a high-pitched tone.
- Use a voice level that can be heard easily in the back of the room.
- Be animated in your delivery. Using facial expressions and body language can be very effective in teaching.
- Move around. Don't stand or sit too long in one place.

Encourage All Students

- Accentuate the positive.
- Be serious about getting work accomplished, but add some humor and fun to class each day.
- Let students know that you expect them to succeed.
- Talk to and interact with as many students as possible, not just your favorite students.

Apply Proven Teaching Techniques

- Vary your teaching strategies or combination of strategies during the week.
- Use three or more seconds of "wait-time" after asking a content question.
- Balance the time you spend with one student or group and monitoring the entire class.
- Do appropriate comprehension checks -- as you are teaching -- to see if students understand the content.
- Praise students appropriately. If you praise them all the time -- especially when they're only doing what's expected and no more, they won't strive to do more. Remember, intermittent reinforcement is the most powerful way to reinforce positive behavior. Be selective in your praise. Be honest. Tell them when they've excelled and how they can improve.
- Read student papers for correct answers *and* for process and student thinking.

Establishing Discipline

When you establish an atmosphere of consistency and mutual respect, you will eliminate some discipline problems and facilitate the solving of others. Here are some techniques to use:

- Be consistent in what you say and what you do.
- Quickly learn and use student names.
- Find an effective means of quieting students. Instead of saying "Shhh," consider using a subtle strategy such as dimming the lights, playing classical or other soothing music, or putting on the board a problem, a brainteaser, or an intriguing question relating to the lesson of the day.
- Avoid using threats to control the class. If you do use a threat, be prepared to carry it out.
- Nip behavior problems in the bud. Intervene quickly when students are behaving inappropriately.
- Whenever possible, reprimand a student one-on-one instead of across the room, in front of the whole class.
- Don't permit students to be inattentive to an educationally useful media presentation.
- Use appropriate punishment for classroom misbehavior