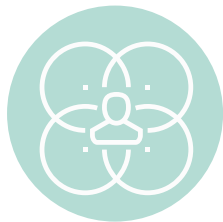# UDL & SPECIAL EDUCATION

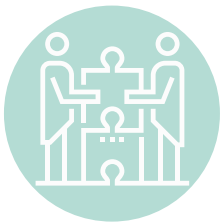## UDL helps us build equitable educational environments

There is no such thing as an "average" learner. Every student has different strengths and weaknesses, whether or not he or she receives special education services.

UDL is based on decades of research on neuroscience and learning

UDL is endorsed in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as best practice

UDL allows teachers to challenge and support *all* students in an inclusive setting

UDL provides educators with the skills and mindset to design learning experiences for students with special needs

Offering options and choices in engagement, representation, and action & expression greatly improves accessibility for all learners, including those receiving special education services.

Multiple means of ENGAGEMENT

Allow students to make choices so they remain invested and engaged
Explicitly tell students **why a lesson is relevant**
Offer students tips on **how to stay motivated**
Provide a **checklists and rubrics** to help students assess their learning
Provide **varying levels of challenge**

Multiple means of REPRESENTATION

Provide **visual, auditory, and digital materials** for each lesson
Provide scaffolds to support students with reading materials
Simplify **complicated instructions** and provide visuals
Model comprehension strategies like note-taking and highlighting

Multiple means of ACTION & EXPRESSION

Allow students to use technology, resources, and tools to express knowledge, such as speech recognition software, dictionaries, graphic organizers, calculators, exemplars, etc.
Give students a choice in how they express what they know or what they can do as evidence that can meet or exceed a standard
Provide feedback while students work

UDL helps both general education and special education providers address barriers to learning.

Find more resources at novakeducation.com

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