

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” —African Proverb

WHAT IS CO-TEACHING?

Co-teaching is when a general education teacher and a special education teacher work as partners in a general education classroom to plan lessons, deliver instruction, and assess student skills (Murawski, 2013). Both teachers work with all students to ensure they receive a standards-based education in an inclusive environment.

BENEFITS OF CO-TEACHING

For All Students

- Improved academic performance
- Increased time and attention from teachers
- Exposure to additional learning strategies
- Improved understanding of various disabilities
- Appreciation of individual strengths and diversity
- Improved classroom communities
- Enhanced self-esteem and stronger self-advocacy and social skills

For Students with Disabilities

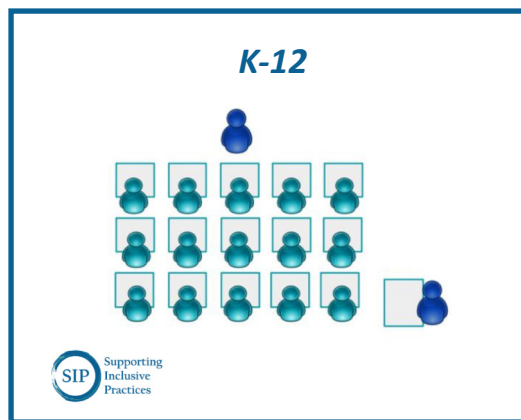
- Access to the general education curriculum
- Access to specialized academic instruction
- Greater level of teacher access
- Improved social skill development
- A sense of community and belonging
- Increased student engagement
- Improved behavior
- Increased access to postsecondary college and career (employment) options



CO-TEACHING MODELS

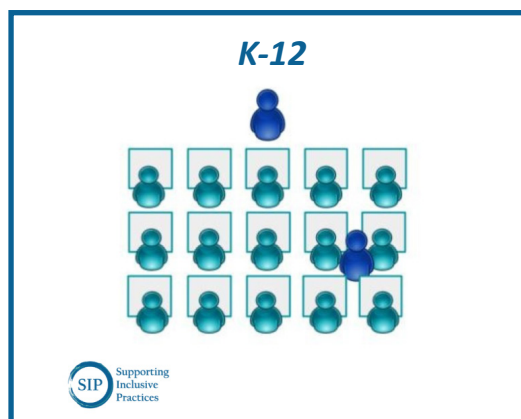
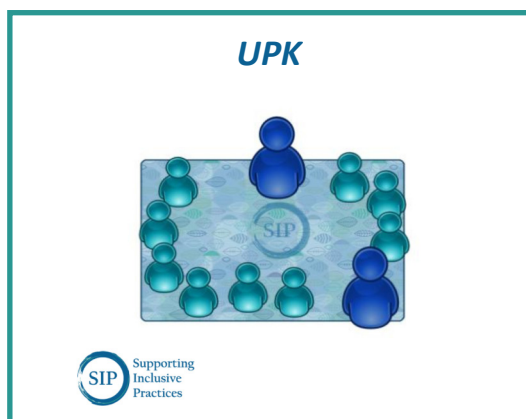
ONE TEACH, ONE OBSERVE

One educator provides instruction to the large group while the other observes the educator, a student, or a group of students for a specific purpose.



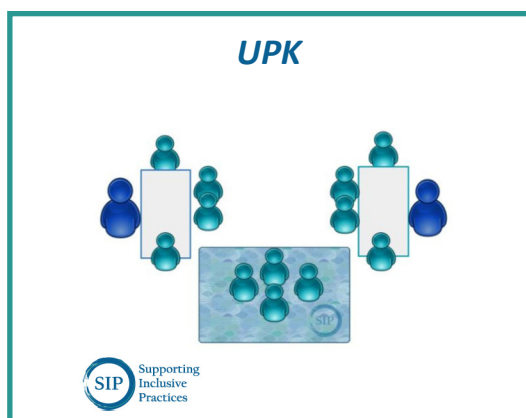
ONE TEACH, ONE ASSIST

One educator provides instruction to the large group while the other circulates, supports, and assists individual students. Reminder: This model should be used for a specific purpose and sparingly to avoid parity differential among educators.



STATION TEACHING

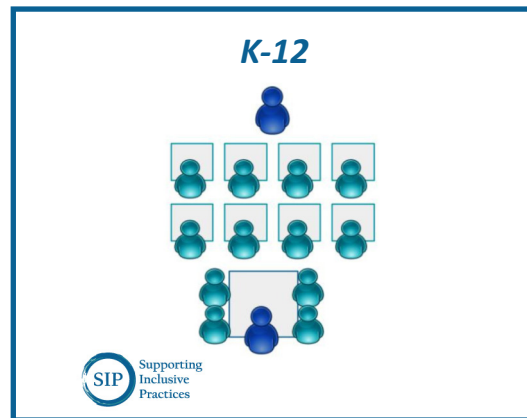
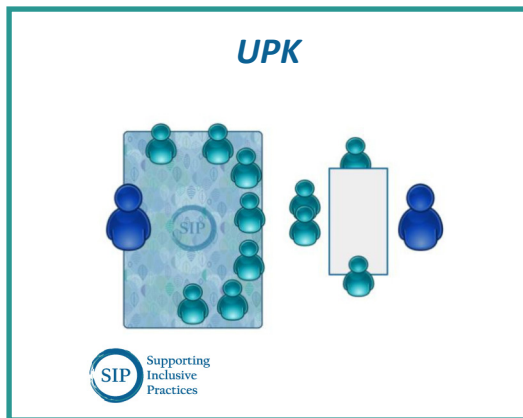
In small groups, students rotate among several learning activities. Depending on the activity, students will be supported by a teacher, an aide, another adult or work independently.



CO-TEACHING MODELS (CONTINUED)

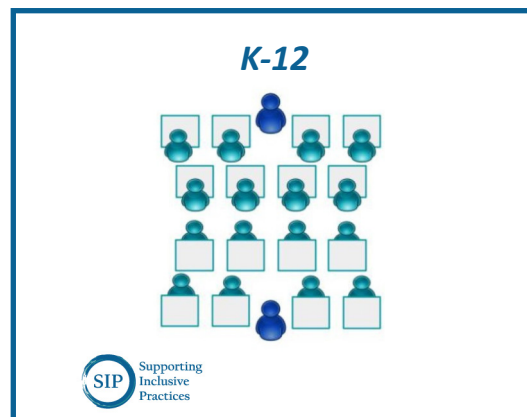
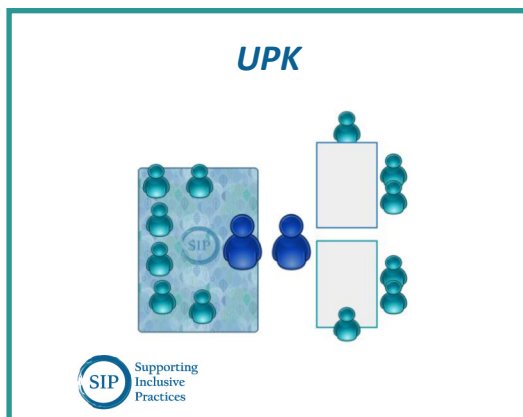
ALTERNATIVE TEACHING

One teacher provides instruction to the large group while the other pre-teaches or reteaches a small group of students for a short period of time.



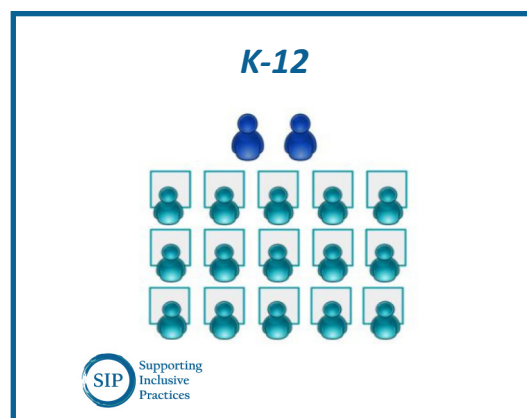
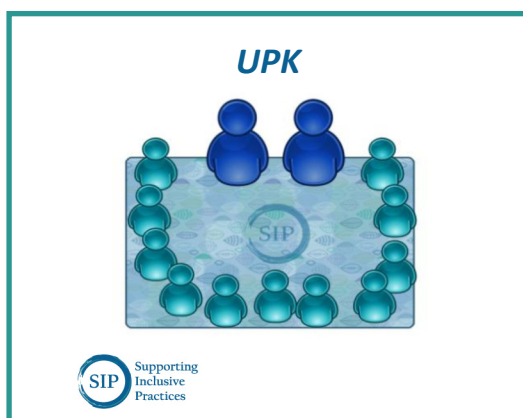
PARALLEL TEACHING

Each teacher provides the same instruction to his or her student groups. The groups are flexible depending on the skill and/or lesson being taught.



TEAM TEACHING

Both teachers equally provide instruction to the whole class.



“When a special educator and a general educator collaborate in co-teaching, their unique areas of expertise can be blended so that students with disabilities receive the special education services to which they are entitled while at the same time meaningfully accessing the general curriculum.”—Marilyn Friend, Ph.D.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How is it decided if my child will be in a co-taught class?

This is an IEP team decision and you are part of the team. It is one of the continuum of services offered by the IEP team.

2. Which one is my child's teacher?

BOTH! Both educators will work with your child and are responsible for planning, instruction, and assessment of all students in the room.

3. What if the pacing is too fast?

Because two teachers are in the room, the teachers will provide the individualized supports your child needs to succeed.

4. What if I have more questions?

You can always talk to your child's teachers or school administrator.

FURTHER YOUR LEARNING

For more general information about co-teaching, please visit our resource webpage:
<https://www.sipimpact.org/What-We-Do/Archived-Virtual-Events/Co-Teaching/>

REFERENCES

Friend, M. (2014). Co-Teach! Building and Sustaining Effective Classroom Partnerships in Inclusive Schools.
Beninghof, A. (2012). Co-Teaching that Works: Structures and Strategies for Maximizing Student Learning.
Molfenter, N., Huff, S (2015). Why High School Inclusion Matters: Factors to Consider.
Murawski, W., Dieker, L. (2013). Leading the Co-Teaching Dance: Leadership Strategies to Enhance Outcomes.



Funded by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division