



# SPECIAL EDUCATION AND POPULATION EDUCATION

## SPECIAL EDUCATION: DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

According to the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY), special education is "specially designed instruction" that is designed to meet the needs of all learners by adapting content, methodology, or delivery of instruction.

Special education can alter two variables: what the child is taught or how the child performs classwork. It is important for teachers to provide a variety of modalities for students to access grade level material.

**POPULATION EDUCATION**

A PROJECT OF POPULATION CONNECTION

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## HOW DOES POPULATION EDUCATION FIT INTO A DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH TO LEARNING?

One goal of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is to educate students with special needs to the greatest extent appropriate in classrooms with their non-disabled peers. This provision means that the general education teacher must differentiate his or her instruction to meet the needs and demands of all learners. Good differentiated instruction takes into account the many ways children learn (tactile, visual, written, and kinesthetic) and incorporates elements of each into every lesson to reach a wide array of learners. Population Education provides students with multiple modalities to access grade-level content in a fun and relevant way.

## WHAT CONCEPTS RELATED TO POPULATION EDUCATION ALIGN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION?

Many Population Education materials incorporate a wide variety of learning styles, making differentiation easier for teachers. Furthermore, students benefit because the themes of Population Education can be applied to a variety of subjects and activities, fostering cross-curricular and critical thinking.

### Population Education lessons allow students to access the curriculum in a variety of ways:

- **Auditory:** Students listen to teacher narratives and participate in class discussion about environmental issues.
- **Visual:** Students see and visualize the effects of human population on the environment through demonstrations and hands-on activities.
- **Written:** Students construct responses to environmental problems that force them to respond to real-world problems critically through reading passages and data sets.
- **Kinesthetic:** Students act out and role play a variety of scenarios relating to environmental issues.

## WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP INTEGRATE POPULATION EDUCATION INTO SPED INSTRUCTION?

Population Education offers a variety of classroom resources, lesson plans, and professional development opportunities to help teachers effectively implement environmental education in the classroom. In Population Education lessons, students use kinesthetic, tactile, visual, auditory, and written skills to partake in scenarios that apply concepts of math, science, social studies, and English language arts to explore contemporary environmental challenges. Lesson plans and resources are available on the Population Education website and through professional development opportunities offered nationwide each year.