

Tech Tools to Support Differentiation in Your Classroom

Read the Full Article Here: <https://www.modelteaching.com/education-articles/technology-in-the-classroom/tech-tools-to-support-differentiation-in-your-classroom>

What is Differentiation?

Differentiation is a general term for an instructional approach in which teachers tailor curriculum, teaching methods, and assessments to meet the diverse needs of students in their classrooms. Between tracking student data, creating varied materials, and managing multiple groups, you may feel like differentiation in your classroom can be overwhelming!

The good news is that technology can be your ally. The right edtech tools can streamline many differentiation tasks, from grouping students based on learning profiles to generating leveled content to creating varied assessments. These tools don't replace your expertise as a teacher, but they do enhance it by handling the time-consuming logistics so you can focus on what matters most: teaching.

In this article, we'll explore five tech tools that support different aspects of differentiation. Whether you need help grouping students, creating accessible content, varying your instructional processes, designing diverse assessments, or supporting students with IEPs, there's a tool here that can make your life easier.

Flexible Grouping: The Foundation of Differentiation

Effective differentiation often begins with thoughtful grouping. Whether you're creating homogeneous groups for targeted intervention or heterogeneous groups for collaborative learning, you need to consider multiple factors: reading levels, interests, learning profiles, social dynamics, and more. This is where grouping tools become invaluable. Rather than manually sorting through spreadsheets or sticky notes, trying to balance all these variables, technology can help you organize student information and generate groups in seconds. The real benefit isn't just the time saved but it's that you're more likely to group students regularly and strategically when the process is manageable.

Tech Tool Spotlight: [grouping your students]

[Grouper.school](#) is one edtech tool that can integrate with Google Classroom. You can add your student roster and specify attributes for each student (e.g., proficiency level, interests, personality traits). The tool helps you easily group students by characteristics and

automatically generates groups for each student, a group name, and an easy-to-download document for classroom use.

Differentiating Content: Meeting Students Where They Are

Content differentiation involves adapting learning materials to ensure accessibility for all students while maintaining the same learning objectives. You may need text at three different reading levels that all address the same core concept. Or perhaps you need to pre-teach vocabulary to some students while others are ready to dive into enrichment topics. Creating these varied materials used to mean hours of rewriting, simplifying, or extending content by hand.

AI-powered tools are changing this landscape dramatically. While these tools aren't perfect and should never replace teacher expertise, they can significantly reduce the time it takes to create differentiated content. The key is to build content differentiation into your lesson planning from the start, rather than treating it as an afterthought.

Tech Tool Spotlight: [content differentiation]

Diffit (<https://web.diffit.me/>) is generally marketed towards schools and districts, but individual teacher licenses are also available for a small monthly fee. Diffit generates leveled content and text based on your lesson plans or learning standards, making it easy to differentiate instruction based on student readiness.

Differentiating Process: Varying How Students Learn

Process differentiation focuses on tailoring learning activities and instructional methods to meet student needs. This might mean providing step-by-step checklists for some students while others work independently or offering hands-on activities for kinesthetic learners while visual learners explore the same concept through diagrams and videos. The challenge is creating this variety of instructional materials and support structures.

Modern edtech tools can help you generate teaching aids, create varied lesson activities, and design supplemental resources that address different learning styles and preferences. These platforms can support everything from graphic organizers to alternative lesson formats, giving you the flexibility to differentiate instruction without spending hours on material creation.

Tech Tool Spotlight: [process differentiation]

<https://www.eduaide.ai/> is one edtech tool that can be utilized for free, and that doesn't require a school or district license. You can use it to create lesson plans that address diverse student needs, learning styles, and preferences. It can also help you create supplemental resources, graphic organizers, and more.

Differentiating Product: Multiple Ways to Show Learning

Product differentiation allows students to demonstrate their learning in varied ways while still meeting the same standards. One student might write an essay while another creates an infographic or records a podcast. The challenge for teachers is designing these varied assessment options, creating rubrics that work across different formats, and managing the logistics of evaluating diverse products.

Technology tools can help you create assessment choice boards, design varied quizzes and project options and even generate rubrics that maintain consistent expectations across different product types. With AI assistance, you can quickly brainstorm creative ways for students to demonstrate mastery and ensure that your assessments truly measure learning rather than simply testing one narrow skill.

Tech Tool Spotlight: [product differentiation]

<https://www.briskteaching.com/> includes an interesting "create anything" tool that allows you to create anything you request based on specific standards, a lesson you have already created, or an idea you have. You can use this tool and others in the platform to help you build assessment choice boards, varied quizzes and assessments, project ideas, or rubrics.

Supporting Students with IEPs: Organization and Accountability

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) require legally mandated accommodations and modifications. Tracking these requirements, documenting that you've provided them, and monitoring student progress can quickly become complex and feel daunting. Paper-based systems are difficult to maintain, and it's easy to lose track of what's working and what isn't.

Digital platforms designed specifically for IEP management can help you catalog each student's goals and required accommodations, track intervention effectiveness, monitor progress over time, and generate documentation reports. By organizing everything in one

place, these tools help you meet your legal obligations and provide valuable data on which strategies are most effective for each student.

Tech Tool Spotlight: [supporting students with IEPs]

[Ablespace.io](#) is a platform designed specifically for your students that have IEPs. There is a free version for teachers. It allows you to easily catalog each student's IEP goals and the accommodations and modifications required for them, and also lets you track progress and run reports, among many other features.

Making Differentiation Manageable

Differentiation doesn't have to consume all your planning time or leave you feeling overwhelmed. By strategically incorporating technology tools that handle the logistics—grouping students, generating leveled materials, creating varied assessments, and tracking accommodations—you free yourself to focus on the creative and relational aspects of teaching that technology can't replicate.

Remember, these tools are meant to enhance your professional judgment, not replace it. You still make the decisions about what students need, how to group them, what standards they're working toward, and how to support their growth. Technology simply makes it easier to act on those decisions efficiently and consistently.

Start small. Choose one area of differentiation that feels most challenging right now—maybe it's grouping, or creating leveled content, or tracking IEP accommodations—and explore the tool that addresses that need. As you get comfortable with one platform, you can gradually expand your use of technology to support other aspects of differentiation. Before long, what once felt impossible will become a natural part of your teaching practice.

Content-Specific Apps and Tools to Supplement Your Student's Learning

There's more to educational apps and online programs than the newest AI tools or large-scale educational platforms. You can utilize digital tools in a variety of ways to support your students by allowing for varied methods of learning in your classroom. Take a look at a few additional content-specific tools to provide you with a starting point for supplementing student learning through digital learning:

Math

<https://www.99math.com/> Whole class math facts practice that can be monitored by the teacher

<https://brilliant.org/> provides math challenges, among other topics

Science

<https://phet.colorado.edu/> engaging science simulations for students to be able to visualize processes related to science

<https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/> provides games, quizzes, facts, and more about all kinds of science related concepts

Reading/ Writing

<https://www.readworks.org/> - Reading passages at various grade levels covering different topics with specialized options for differentiation

<https://www.quill.org/> - A free writing tool that helps students learn to write well, focusing on writing lessons, practicing grammar, and more.

Geography/ History

<https://geography.fizzylearning.com/> - Quizzes, flashcards, printable PDFS in an interactive format to learn about geographic regions of the world

<https://www.historyforkids.net/> -Interesting historical facts covering all regions of the world, specifically for kids

Foreign Language

<https://languagedrops.com/> - provides quick daily lessons in a variety of language to help students master a new language quickly

<https://readlang.com/> - A foreign language program that helps you learn language by reading, then practice the words you didn't recognize

Try This Task

This week, identify one differentiation task that consistently takes you significant time or causes stress. Is it creating reading materials at different levels? Forming groups that balance multiple student needs? Designing varied assessments? Tracking IEP accommodations?

Choose one tool from this article that addresses that specific challenge. Sign up for a free trial or free version, and experiment with it for one lesson or unit. Pay attention to how much time it saves you and whether the quality of differentiation improves. If the tool works well, consider making it a regular part of your practice. If it doesn't quite fit your needs, try a different option.

The goal isn't to adopt every tool at once, but to slowly adopt some technology tools into your regular instruction to support you and make differentiation in your classroom more sustainable and more effective for your students.