

Alternative Teaching

	We can use alternative teaching in our classroom when.....
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Description: One teacher leads whole group instruction, while the other teacher teaches a smaller group or provides individual tutoring.

Pros: Provides needed pre-teaching, re-teaching, specialized instruction or practice activities. It allows opportunities for enrichment and time for teaching important content to students who have been absent.

Cons: The pacing requires careful planning.

Guidelines for Use: Alternative teaching should use flexible grouping and be driven by assessment. Carefully coordinate activities in the large group and the alternative group, so that students do not miss needed instruction.

Pitfalls to Avoid: Do not repeatedly group the same students for small group instruction. Do not always have the same teacher provide alternative instruction.

Alternative Teaching (Continued)

Pitfalls to Avoid

- Repeatedly grouping the same students for small group instruction (may result in stigmatization of group members)
- Having the same teacher always provide alternative instruction

Elementary Examples

- One teacher leads whole class review for upcoming science test. One teacher teaches content missed to students who have been absent and/or students who need remediation in content.
- One teacher leads a directed reading lesson. One teacher listens to a small group (or individual) read selection orally.

Middle School Examples

- One teacher leads whole group discussion about world geography concepts. One teacher teaches small group and practices map skills needed for review.
- One teacher monitors the whole class as students complete study guide questions. One teacher works with individual students who have organizational weaknesses to check progress steps on an upcoming project.

High School Examples

- One teacher monitors the whole class independent class work. One teacher pre-teaches vocabulary for upcoming math concepts.
- One teacher reviews for test. One teacher assists small group in creation of Powerpoint presentation for enrichment on upcoming content.

Nonexample

- The special education teacher works with a group of low-achieving students in a corner of the room each day in the same subject being taught in the general education classroom.