

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS: TEACHING STRATEGIES

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES • TEACHER RESOURCE

Alternative assessments are most effective when paired with intentional teaching strategies. The goal is to provide every student with meaningful opportunities to demonstrate learning while maintaining the same academic expectations.

Before the Assessment

- Clearly explain the learning objective.
- Review expectations with students.
- Provide visual examples or models.
- Break larger tasks into manageable steps.
- Allow students to ask clarifying questions before beginning.

During the Assessment

- Give one direction at a time when appropriate.
- Minimize distractions whenever possible.
- Offer additional processing time if documented.
- Observe student performance rather than relying solely on written responses.
- Encourage students without providing answers.

Ways Students Can Demonstrate Learning

- Teacher observation
- One-on-one conversations
- Video-recorded responses
- Demonstrations or role-playing
- Matching and picture-supported activities
- Guided interviews
- Student-created projects or presentations

Providing Feedback

- Focus feedback on the learning objective.
- Reinforce strengths before addressing areas for improvement.
- Provide specific suggestions for growth.
- Encourage students to reflect on their own learning.

Best Practices

- Keep the learning objective consistent.
- Match the assessment method to the student's needs.
- Maintain high expectations for all learners.
- Follow each student's IEP or Section 504 Plan when applicable.

- Collaborate with special education staff when questions arise.

★ **Remember**

Effective teaching strategies remove barriers to learning—not expectations. Students may use different pathways to demonstrate mastery while working toward the same learning objective.