


## What Is “Special” About Special Education? Specially Designed Instruction for Students With Disabilities Within a Multi-tiered System of Supports

The table below provides an in-depth explanation of the similarities and differences – as well as the inter-relatedness – of *Specially Designed Instruction*, *Core Instruction*, and *Interventions*.

	<i>Specially Designed Instruction</i>	Core Instruction (Tier 1)	Supplemental Intervention (Tier 2)	Intensive Intervention (Tier 3)
		 – Applicable Across All Tiers –		
<b>Defining Characteristics</b>	Specially designed instruction as defined by IDEA regulations refers to adaptations to the content, methodology or delivery of instruction that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address the unique needs of a child that result from the child’s disability</li> <li>• Ensure access to the general education curriculum so that the child can meet the educational standards that apply to all children (34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §300.39(b)(3))</li> <li>• Are guaranteed by IDEA and implemented in accordance with the individual educational plan (IEP) process</li> </ul>	Instruction and support designed and differentiated for all students in all settings to ensure mastery of the Common Core State Standards and core instructional goals/expectations.	More focused, targeted instruction/intervention and supplemental support aligned with Common Core State Standards and core instructional goals/expectations.	The most <i>intense</i> * intervention based upon individual student need and aligned with core curriculum, instruction and supplemental supports.  * <i>Daily or near daily sessions; increased time per session for delivery, practice and feedback; narrowed focus; reduced group size; most explicit and systematic; most frequent progress monitoring.</i>
<b>Common Focus</b>	Provide instruction and intervention supports, designed and implemented through a team approach to data-based planning and problem solving, matched to student learning needs.			
<b>Relationship to Core Instruction</b>	Integrated and in alignment with Common Core State Standards and core instructional goals and expectations across the full continuum of learners.			