Accommodations and Modifications

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Accommodations and modifications are both strategies used in education to support students with diverse needs, but they have distinct purposes and implementation methods.

Accommodations

Accommodations are designed to provide equal access to the same curriculum and educational content for students with disabilities or specific learning needs.

- » **Purpose:** They help "level the playing field," ensuring that students can participate and demonstrate their knowledge without altering the fundamental content or expectations.
- » **Examples:** Extended time for tests, preferential seating, providing audio materials for students with reading difficulties, or allowing the use of assistive technology.

Modifications

Modifications involve altering the curriculum or educational content to suit a student's individual needs, usually due to significant learning challenges or disabilities.

- » **Purpose:** The primary goal is to adjust the requirements and expectations, enabling the student to engage with modified content that aligns with their abilities and strengths.
- » **Examples:** Simplifying reading materials, reducing the number of multiple-choice options for test items, lowering the complexity of tasks, or altering grading criteria to accommodate a student's learning pace.

Summary

- » Accommodations provide support within the existing curriculum without changing the core content (changes how a student learns).
- » Modifications involve altering the curriculum to better fit the student's abilities and needs (changes what a student is expected to learn).
- » Both accommodations and modifications are essential components of inclusive education, tailored to meet the diverse requirements of students and help them achieve academic success.

Additional Resources

- » Understood | *www.understood.org/en/articles/the-difference-between-accommodations-and-modifications*
- » Reading Rockets | *www.readingrockets.org/helping-all-readers/inclusive-classrooms/accommodations-and-modifications*