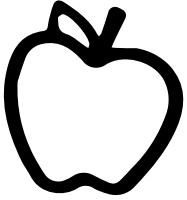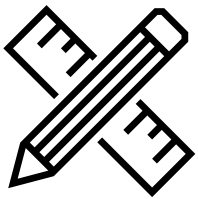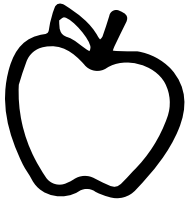# TEACHING TERMINOLOGY

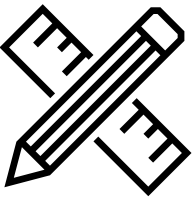A list of teaching terms that every teacher new to the profession should know.

- **504 plans -** Formal plans that schools develop to give kids with disabilities the support they need. That covers any condition that limits daily activities in a major way.504 plans aren't part of special education. So, they're different from IEPs.
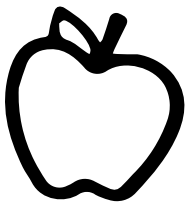- **Accountability -** Processes used to demonstrate that institutions and individuals have fulfilled their obligations.
- **Action plan -** Specific proposal developed by a learner, teacher or institution to address problems or difficulties or meet a desired goal.
- **Active learning** - Although information is important, passively accumulating disconnected information is not learning. To learn, students have to be mentally and often physically active as they discover their own answers, solutions, concepts, and relationships and create their own interpretations; this learning is deeper, more comprehensive, and longer lasting, and the learning that occurs actively leads to an ability to think critically.
- **Assessment** - The process of evaluating and measure an individuals achievement; typically done with assessment tools such as assignments or examinations.
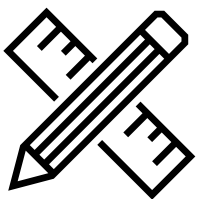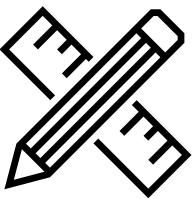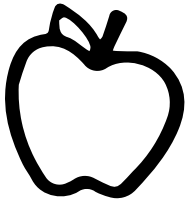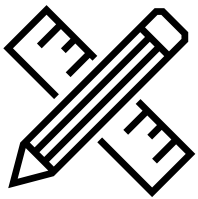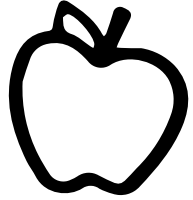- **Blended learning** - An educational formation the integrates elearning techniques including online delivery of materials through web pages, discussion boards and/or email with traditional teaching methods including lectures, in-person discussions, seminars, or tutorials.
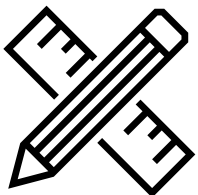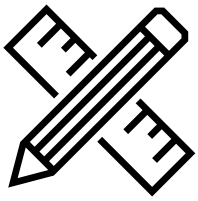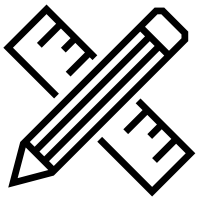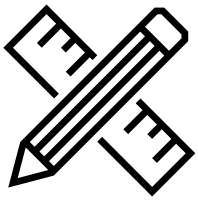
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- **Bloom's taxonomy -** A heirachical framework of learing based on three domains - the cognitive, affective and psychomotor; in the cognitive domain there are <u>six levels of knowledge</u>: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. In the affective domain there are five levels: receiving phenomenon, responding to phenomenon, valuing, organizing values, and internalizing values. In the psychomotor domain there are seven levels: perception, readiness to act, guided response, mechanism, complex overt action, adaptation, and origination (the psychomotor levels where not originally completed by Bloom).

- **Brainstorming** - Typically used in writing, but is any activity where individuals general ideas related to a topic or task; done in either groups or individually with no restriction on quality of ideas. Once ideas are generation, they are they evaluated and a decision about which to pursue is made.

- **Cognitive domain** - The mental aspect of experience and learning (knowing, understanding, etc.).

- **Cognitive model of learning** - Learning models based on the theory that acquisition of new knowledge and skills rests on the existence and development of mental cognitive structures.
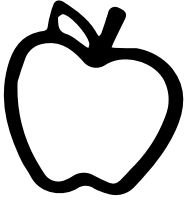
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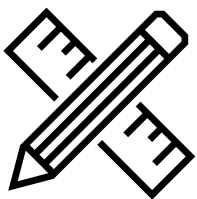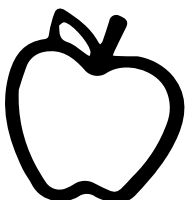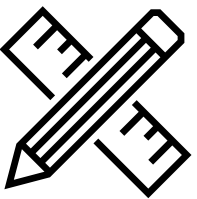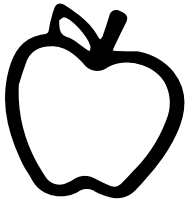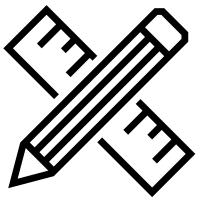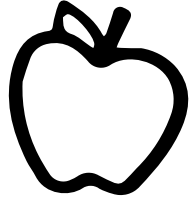
- **Collaborative learning -** An instructional method that emphasizes students working together in small groups to complete a task or reach a common goal; in some cases students may be responsible for each other's learning.
- **Comprehension** - Ability to find and construct meaning from texts.
- **Concept mapping** - A learning strategy used to aid students in organizing information; concept maps take a variety of forms suited to the type of information and activity.
- **Constructivism** - A theory learning that claims people learn by constructing knowledge through social interactions with others.
- **Continuing professional development (CDP)** - Opportunities for individuals to increase their current level of knowledge and skills through coursework or other means in order to improve their employment.
- **Constructed response -** Assessment based on written material constructed by the student.
- **Cooperative learning -** Learning format the requires the cooperation of a small number of students who work towards the completion of a given task; each student is responsible for a part of the task, and the entire task cannot be completed without all the learners finishing their portion of the task.
- **Co-teaching** - The practice of pairing teachers together in a classroom to share the responsibilities of planning, instructing, and assessing students. In a co-teaching setting, the teachers are considered equally responsible and accountable for the classroom. Co-teaching is often implemented with general and special education teachers paired together as part of an initiative to create a more inclusive classroom.
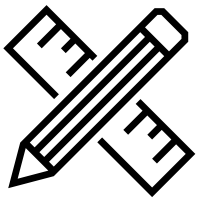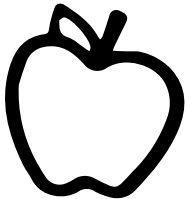
TEACHING TERMINOLOGY

- **Creative thinking -** Thought processes designed to encourage originality in the development and elaboration of original and diverse ideas.
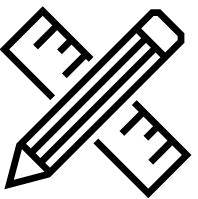- **Criterion referencing -** Assessment based on predefined criteria; opposed to norm referencing.
- **Critical thinking -** Evaluating claims, assumptions, and implications of a particular point of view without simply accepting them as facts.
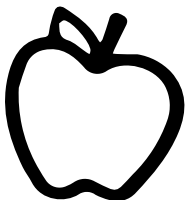- **Curriculum -** Broadly understood as the subjects and materials to be taught by an educational institution; typically it is listed as a set of subjects, but also may include the learning experiences, skills, and abilities students are expected to learn.
- **Curriculum mapping -** A process for organizing data reflecting the primary knowledge, skills, and assessments related to a subject area and used to facilitate communication and instruction.
- **Deep learning -** Learning aimed at having students extract principles and underlying meanings in order to integrate them with previously acquired knowledge; contrast with surface learning.
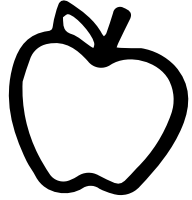- **Diagnostic test -** Examination used to determine students current level of knowledge or skill to identify what course level they should be placed in or whether remediation is required.
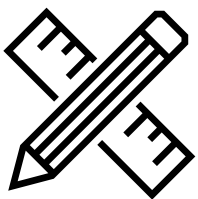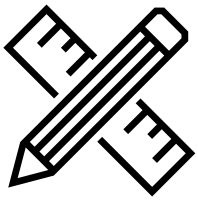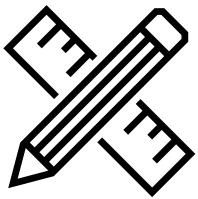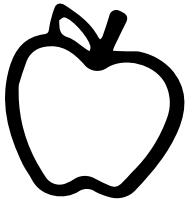
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- **Disadvantaged students -** Students who have not had the same opportunities as other students entering a course of study and may need special Arrangements or additional assistance to prepare them for study; disadvantages may be due to physical or emotional problems or deficiencies caused by inequities in social conditions.
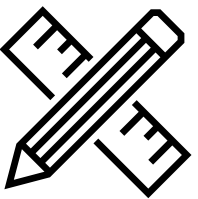- **Distance education -** Any format of education provided to students who do not need to be physically present at an institution; previously materials were sent to students but now materials are provided via computer conferencing, video, Internet, and other electronic means.
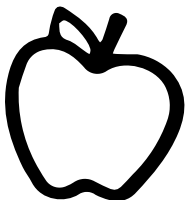- **Distance learning -** Learning completed via a distance education format.
- **E-learning -** Learning activities based on any electronic format.
- **Evaluation -** Process of assessing work completed by an individual, group, or institution with the aim of determining whether the individual, group, or institution has meet predetermined standards.
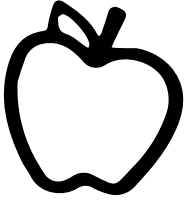- **Experiential learning -** Learning based on experience.
- **Facilitator -** Individual who assists others in a learning process but does not act as a the primary source of knowledge; the facilitator acts as a guide in during individual or group learning activities.
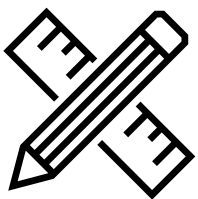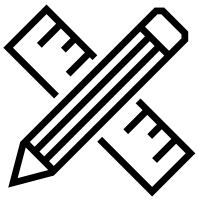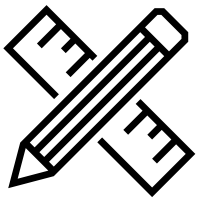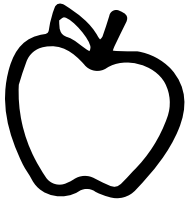
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- **Feedback -** Responses provided to an individual while completing a task that are intended to guide the individual to s desired end.
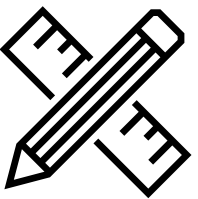- **Flexible learning** - Format of education where students are allowed to determine their own time for study and the topic(s) they will examine.
- **Flipped classroom** - A type of blended learning where students are introduced to content at home and practice working through it at school.
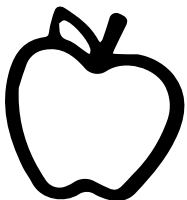- **Formative assessment -** Assessment used to identify an individuals current strengths and weaknesses relative to a knowledge or skill with the intention of improving one's knowledge or skill.
- **Grading** - Activity of assigning a grade or mark to a completed assignment.
- **Grading rubric** - Written explanation clarifying how individuals will be assessed on a given task.
- **Group assessment -** Assessment based on a group as a whole rather than based on each individual's work.
- **Group work** - Learning activities requiring several students to work together.
- **Growth mindset** - People believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point.
- **Guided Reading** - A practice whereby a teacher or instructor leads small groups of student through short texts to facilitate learning of fluency, comprehension, and problem-solving strategies.
- **Handout -** Typically a sheet provided to all members of group that contains vital information, a task to be completed, or other guidelines for an assignment.
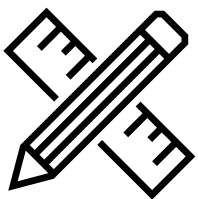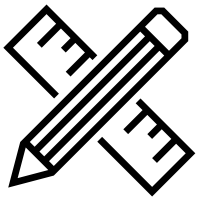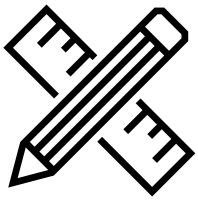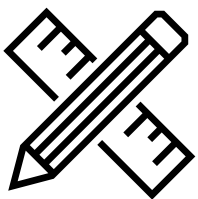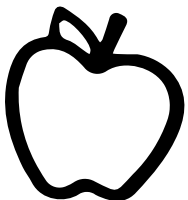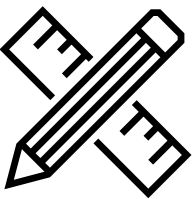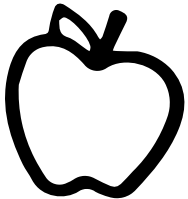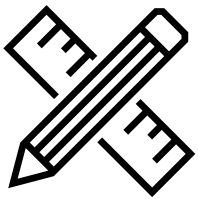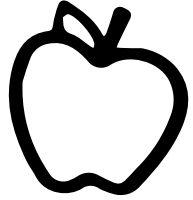
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- **IEP (Individualized Education Program) -** An IEP lays out the special education instruction, supports, and services a student needs to thrive in school.
- **Independent learning -** Learning completed by an individual without the assistance of an instructor.
- **Independent Reading -** Activity of students reading material on their own.
- **Inquiry-based learning (aka Problem Based Learning) -** Learning methodology where students are presented a problem to solve using knowledge and skills they have acquired or need to develop.
- **Instructional design -** A process for systematically creating instructional materials and learning activities based on the goals of the instruction and the needs of the learners.
- **Instructional support -** Resources provided to learners to facilitate the learning process.
- **Ipsative assessment -** Assessment based on comparison of an individual's current performance with the individual's past performance.
- **Just-in-time learning -** Learning completed at the time knowledge or skills are necessary to complete a specific task.
- **Key skills -** Vital skills necessary for a task or to gain employment including literacy, mathematics, and basic computer skills.
- **Kolb`s learning cycle -** Learning model, presented by David Kolb, that identifies 4 stages in the learning cycle: concrete experience, observations and reflections, formation of abstract concepts and generalizations, and testing implications of concepts in new situations.
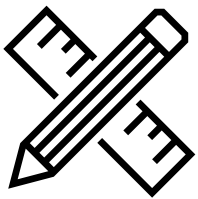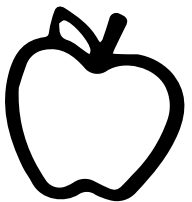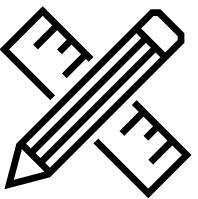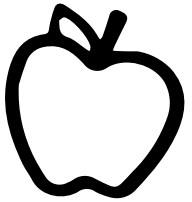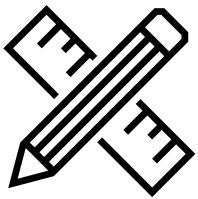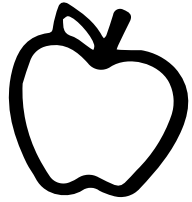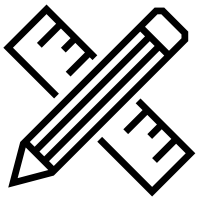
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- **Learning and teaching strategy** - Methodology and assumptions an instructor uses to ensure learning occurs.
- **Learning Centers** - Designated classroom areas where students engage in specific activities to facilitate learning skills or knowledge; students typically work in learning centers without direct oversight by the instructor.
- **Learning contract** - Agreement reached between instructor and student regarding the objectives to be reached in a particular learning period or activity.
- **Learning environment** - The place and setting where learning occurs; it is not limited to a physical classroom an includes the characteristics of the setting.
- **Learning logs** - Recordings of the progress made by a learner with regards to acquiring a knowledge or skill.
- **Learning outcomes** - Statements indicating the end result for a learner following a learning activity; usually stated in what a person can observe the learner do at the end of a learning activity.
- **Learning styles** - The various preferences and methods employed by learners in the process of learning.
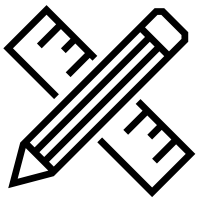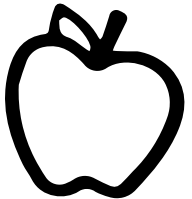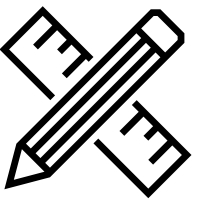
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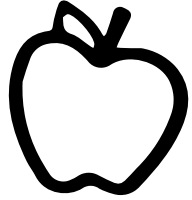
- **Lifelong learning -** Idea that learning can and does occur beyond the formal structure of an educational institution and occurs throughout one's lifetime.
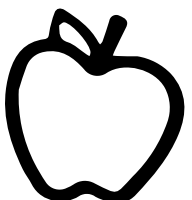- **Meta-cognition** - Ability to reflect on one's own thinking and learning.
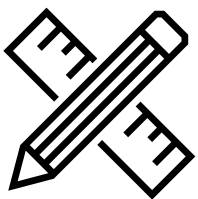- **Monitoring achievement** - Tracking students' progress towards achieving a learning goal.
- **Multiple Choice Questions** - Test format where students are provided several possible answers and must identify the best possible answer.
- **Norm referencing** - Assessment based on a comparison of raw scores from a given assignment; opposed to criterion referencing.
- **Objective tests** - Test based on answers that require students demonstrate a knowledge or skill exactly with no opportunity for judgment by the evaluator.
- **Objectives** - Goals or aims of learning activity or lesson.
- **Open-ended questions -** Questions that do not have predetermined answers and allow the responder to develop a unique, personal response.
- **Pedagogy** - Approach or process of teaching.
- **Peer assessment** - Assessment completed by other students or member in the same discipline.
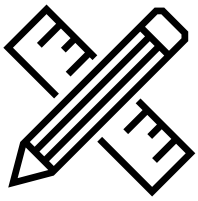
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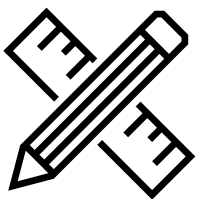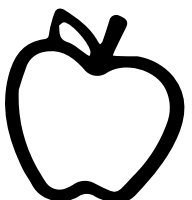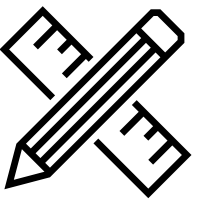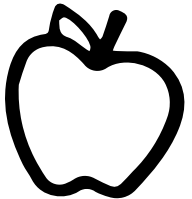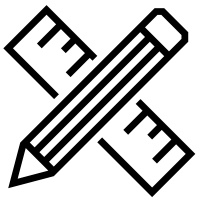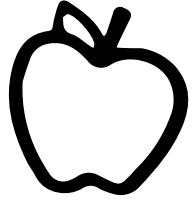
- **Peer learning -** Form of learning in which students are engaged in teaching each other material.
- **Performance criteria -** Written standards used by an evaluator to judge whether an individual can perform a skill or has demonstrated knowledge.
- **Portfolio Assessment -** Assessment of a portfolio intended to judge the students development and current state of knowledge and skills.
- **Positive feedback -** Comments intended to highlight positive elements of a person's activities.
- **Psychomotor domain -** The physical aspect or muscular activity of experience or learning.
- **Qualitative assessment** - Assessment based on personal views, experience or opinion of the reviewer.
- **Reliability** - The characteristic that same or similar results can be obtained through repeated experiments or tests.
- **Remedial teaching** - Education activities aimed at removing deficiencies in knowledge or skills.
- **Rubric(s) -** Written instructions or explanation clarifying how individuals should act or respond; see also grading rubric.
- **Scaffolded Instruction** - Teaching methodology where teachers assist and guide students so that they can complete learning activities they could not do without support.
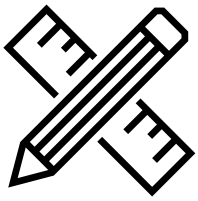
TEACHING TERMINOLOGY

- **Self assessment -** Assessment completed by the learner him/herself to evaluate his/her own performance, strengths and weaknesses.
- **Standards** - Specified ends of learning all students are expected to attain.
- **STEM** - Stands for **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**athematics. It is an approach to learning that integrates these four areas. Through STEM, students develop key skills including problem solving, creativity, critical analysis, and teamwork.
- **Strategic learning** - Learning methodology in which learners adapt their learning style to fit the needs of the assigned task.
- **Student-centered learning** - Educational approach emphasizes the student's responsibility for learning, interacting with teachers and other students, researching, and assessment by focusing on the student's role in these activities.
- **Summative assessment -** Assessment typically completed at the end of a learning period with the aim of providing a final evaluation of individual's mastery of a knowledge or skill.
- **Surface learning -** Learning that emphasizes the memorization of details (rote learning); contrast with deep learning.
- **Time management -**Methods and techniques to ensure one makes the most effect appropriate use of his/her time.
- **Transfer of learning** - Ability to apply knowledge and skills learned in one area to another context or problem.
- **Transferable skills** - Skills possessed by an individuals that can be used in a variety of settings.
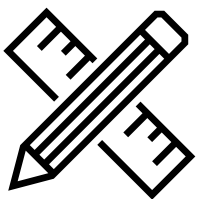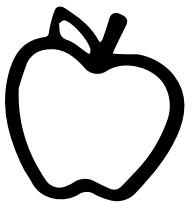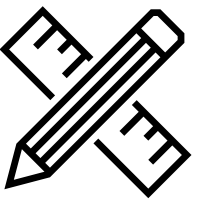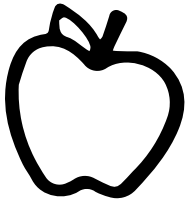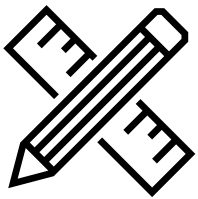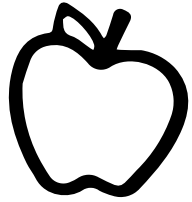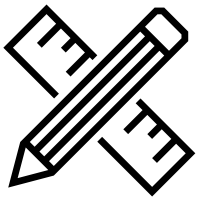
TEACHING TERMINOLOGY

- **Virtual field trip** - Simulated field trip completed by visiting sites on the Internet.
- **Vocational courses** - Classes focusing on the development of trade or business skills.
- **Word Wall** - A selected collection of words posted on a wall that is arranged in lists or groups to facilitate students familiarity with common sight words.