

# Co-teaching

*According to credible research, co-teaching produces students who outperform their peers in single-teacher classrooms in reading and math achievement.*

As Ohio strengthens its education system with bold new reforms, educators need new approaches aimed at consistent, high-quality instruction. Co-teaching, one such approach, is proven effective with students. It also benefits teachers, ranging from pre-service to seasoned educators.

## **What is co-teaching?**

Co-teaching occurs when “two or more professionals deliver substantive instruction to a diverse or blended group of students in a single physical space.” (Cook and Friend, 2004)

During the past several decades, co-teaching strategies developed with a special focus on meeting the needs of diverse learners, such as students with disabilities and English language learners. Today, as the positive effect of co-teaching on students has become better documented, more educators have begun to use co-teaching to meet the challenges of the state’s more rigorous teaching and learning standards.

## **How does co-teaching work with pre-service teachers?**

Co-teaching positions the student teacher as an “apprentice” to the regular classroom teacher. Both the student teacher and classroom teacher, however, take an active role in planning lessons, providing instruction and assessing students. The classroom teacher retains a great deal of responsibility, but the

## **Why would co-teaching work with all types of students?**

It works because co-teaching:

- x Reduces teacher-student ratios so students get more individual attention;
- x Allows students to learn firsthand how their co-teachers use teamwork and problem-solving skills in the classroom;
- x Results in higher levels of enthusiasm and involvement among students than in traditional classrooms;

## **How does co-teaching differ from other collaborations?**

Current research sheds light on what authentic co-teaching truly is – and what it is not. Co-teaching is not:

- x One person teaching one subject, followed by another person teaching a different subject;

### **For more information:**

Attend the department's co-teaching training. Contact [brinda.price@education.ohio.gov](mailto:brinda.price@education.ohio.gov).

[The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities](#)