

STEM classroom accommodations

These accommodations can help students learn, stay engaged, and thrive in STEM.

STEM classroom setup

- Offer flexible seating options, like standing desks, wobble stools, or floor seating.
- Create clearly defined areas for building, materials, and equipment.
- Post visual schedules or agendas.
- Provide a quiet or low-stimulation space where students can take breaks.
- Offer noise-reducing headphones.

Introducing new STEM concepts

- Pre-teach key vocabulary before lessons and labs.
- Use visuals, models, diagrams, or demos along with verbal explanations.
- Connect new ideas to everyday experiences or real-world problems.
- Break new information into small chunks. Give time to process and ask questions.
- Offer recorded explanations or short videos that students can revisit.

Giving instructions

- Give instructions verbally and in writing.
- Provide images to show the setups for labs.
- Break long instructions into short, numbered steps.
- Provide checklists for students to use as they work.
- Highlight key actions or materials in written directions.
- Ask students to restate instructions.
- Check in frequently to make sure students understand the directions.

Hands-on STEM activities and labs

- Assign and demonstrate roles during group work.
- Give time to explore the hands-on materials before the learning task.
- Allow movement and other types of breaks.
- Offer gloves, goggles, or alternative materials for sensory comfort.
- Break labs and projects into shorter work periods.
- Use timers and visual countdowns to support pacing.

Completing STEM assessments

- Offer extended time to plan, build, revise, or present a project.
- Give options for how students demonstrate learning.
- Provide clear rubrics that explain the criteria.
- Give access to reference sheets, formulas, or glossaries during work time.
- Offer flexible presentation formats, such as presenting to a small group or recording ahead of time.