DIAMOND
DATA INFORMED ACCESSIBILITY: MAKING OPTIMAL NEEDS-BASED DECISIONS

Using Online Modules to Learn about Accessibility Features and Accommodations

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Project

Because of a change in how educators and policy makers view accessibility, more accessibility features are available to students than ever before. These supports can improve educational outcomes, but they also place a greater burden on educators who have to make decisions for a growing number of students based on the students' individual needs and preferences.

The Data Informed Accessibility – Making Optimal Needs-based Decisions (DIAMOND) is a partnership between nine states and the National Center on Educational Outcomes that has created a set of online professional development modules to help educators make these important decisions about accessibility features.

Module navigation screen showing: 1 Thinking About Student Needs; 2 Making and Implementing Instructional Support Decisions; 3 Making and Implementing Assessment Accomodations; 4 Putting It All Together. DIAMOND DATA INFORMED ACCESSIBILITY — MAKING OPTIMAL NEECS-BASED DECISIONS

Ana Lopez
Stellar Elementary

- **Student ID:** 5048776
- **Grade:** 5
- **Age:** 12
- **Free/Reduced Price Lunch:** Yes
- **English Learner Services:** Yes
- **Special Education Services:** No
- **Method of Travel to School:** School Bus

Assessments

ELA: Basic
- Significantly below grade-level standards

Math: Partially proficient
- Meets some but not all grade-level standards

ELP:
- **Reading:** Beginning
- **Writing:** Beginning
- **Listening:** Expanding
- **Speaking:** Developing

Online Modules

The modules are meant for general education, special education, and EL teachers and cover four basic steps that educators should follow when making effective decisions about accessibility features.

The development of the modules has been iterative. States and experts made sure that the content was up to date, and two usability studies with educators showed the need to make the modules more narrative and engaging.

For more information about the DIAMOND project, go to:
nceo.info/About/projects/nceoprojects/diamond

Student Profiles

After logging in, module users select a student whose story they will follow throughout the modules. They then use information about the student's individual needs and preferences (found in the student's profile) to make appropriate decisions about accessibility features.

There are three profiles that users can choose from:
- Ana, an English learner
- Daisy, a student with a specific learning disability
- Beau, a student who receives no special services but still has unmet learning needs

Helpful Videos

When module users need help making a decision for their chosen student, they have the option to watch videos narrated by experts. These videos have titles such as "How Can I Identify Access Needs in Individual Students?" and "When Can Accessibility Features Be Used?" and are brief, focused, and informative.

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