

Creating Meaningful Assessments & Interventions for Students with Math-Related Disabilities

Session Overview

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1 - What is a Math Disability - Like Really?

Math disabilities are hard to define in meaningful ways that actually support assessment and intervention.

Math disabilities are brain based – students with math disabilities have difficulty learning and doing math because their brains process information differently.

Most real-time math struggles can be attributed to five core challenges: Calculation, visual processing, executive functioning, anxiety, and cognitive overload.

2 - How to Conduct Meaningful Assessments

Math disability assessment can feel abstract, score-based, and disconnected from actual math struggles.

Meaningful assessment and diagnosis happen when real world connections are made between a student's neuropsychological challenges and their math difficulties.

An assessment is an opportunity to tell a story that captures a student's core challenges and actual math difficulties, and creates a practical narrative that explains a student's learning struggles and articulates their barriers to learning and core learning needs.

3 - How to Create Meaningful Interventions & Supports

It's hard to find and select math interventions and supports that actually help students with math disabilities.

Students with math disabilities can thrive in math when they have access to all the understanding, skills, and thinking they need to learn.

Meaningful supports provide bridges to learning and increase access to existing lessons and content by minimizing barriers, scaffolding challenges, and supplementing instruction.

Applying the Frameworks to Your Work

Reflections on Your Current Work

How are you seeing core challenges show up in your students?

How are you already capturing stories in your assessment practices?

How are your schools already creating bridges for students?

Opportunities for Development

How can you continue to refine your lens & understanding of core challenges?

How can you enhance your assessment practices to tell a fuller story?

Where are there opportunities to create more bridges for struggling students?