Instructional Strategies to Increase Accessibility

Helping Students Understand Tasks
- Reword directions or questions
- Have students paraphrase directions and questions
- Provide visual *and* auditory directions
- Preview vocabulary
- Have students highlight key information
- Change context to make it more familiar or appealing to students
- Show examples of the finished product

Helping Students Access Math in Varied Ways
- Build on students' prior math knowledge
- Make connections across math topics
- Move from concrete to representational to abstract
- Use multiple representations
- Provide additional examples
- Offer manipulatives
- Use technology strategies
- Use visuals like charts or projected images
- Offer alternative ways for students to show what they know
- Provide kinesthetic learning opportunities

Building Student Independence
- Offer timers to help students with pacing
- Teach highlighting and color-coding
- Use "think alouds" and other metacognitive strategies
- Teach *and* model strategies for:
  - Organization
  - Self-questioning and self-monitoring
  - Problem-solving
  - Memory (such as mnemonics)
- Clarify expectations (use rubrics)

Providing Tools and Handouts
- Provide study guides with key information to reduce copying and note-taking
- Offer calculators and multiplication charts
- Provide resource sheets
- Provide templates for tables, graphs, writing, and other tasks
- Use graphic organizers
- Provide practice problems
- Provide a word bank with key vocabulary words and visuals

Promoting Understanding through Discourse
- Have students work in pairs or small groups
- Use cooperative learning
- Keep class discussions short and focused
- Provide timely and constructive feedback
- Check in frequently with students
- Use questions, prompts, and hints

Helping Students Manage Tasks and Organization
- Reformat handouts to provide more workspace
- Reduce amount of copying
- Provide a checklist
- Provide time management cues
- Set up a notebook organizational system
- Provide project organizers to help the students keep track of tasks
- Offer tools such as highlighters and post-its to help students focus

Adjusting Tasks to Student Needs
- Adjust level of difficulty
- Use friendlier numbers
- Break complex tasks into smaller parts
- Adjust amount of time for tasks
- Adjust amount of work
- Create multiple versions of a problem, in order to offer alternatives to a range of learners
- Adjust pacing to optimize attention

Creating a Supportive Environment
- Post and reinforce classroom expectations
- Post homework assignments in a consistent location
- Seat students strategically, based on needs like vision or hearing. Seat distractible students away from windows or doors.
- Use nonverbal signals to cue attention or behavior
- Use consistent and familiar routines
- Provide easy access to manipulatives, templates, and other tools in the classroom