Using E-Learning Platforms for Inclusive

Implementation of Inclusive Practices in Education

Teaching

Objective: Understand and Implement Inclusive Practices

in Various Educational Settings.

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Learning Outcomes

- **Define Inclusivity in Education**: Explain the concept of inclusivity, recognizing the importance of accommodating diverse abilities, backgrounds, and learning styles.

- **Differentiate Between Equity and Equality in Education**: Understand the distinction between providing equal treatment and meeting individual student needs.

- **Apply Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Principles**: Implement UDL principles such as engagement, representation, and expression to enhance inclusivity.

- **Develop an Inclusive Curriculum**: Modify educational content to include diverse perspectives, fostering representation and relevance.

- **Implement Inclusive Teaching Strategies**: Use strategies like scaffolding and differentiated instruction to meet diverse learner needs.

- **Create an Inclusive Classroom Environment**: Arrange physical and social classroom settings to promote accessibility and mutual respect.

Learning Outcomes

- **Support Diverse Learners**: Accommodate learning disabilities and neurodiversity through alternative methods and assistive technologies.

- **Practice Culturally Responsive Teaching**: Integrate students' cultural backgrounds into learning activities to enhance engagement.

- **Design Inclusive Assessments**: Offer flexible assessment options to address various learning styles and abilities.

- **Utilize Inclusive Technology**: Integrate tools like screen readers, speech-to-text, and adaptive technologies to support diverse learning needs.

- **Address Implicit Bias**: Identify and mitigate implicit biases to foster a fair and respectful learning environment.

- **Promote Mental Health and Well-Being**: Recognize mental health needs and provide accommodations to support student well-being.

- **Reflect on Challenges in Inclusivity**: Identify and discuss challenges in implementing inclusive practices, brainstorming solutions.

Introduction to Inclusivity (1)

What is Inclusivity?

- Creating an environment that acknowledges, respects, and accommodates differences in abilities, backgrounds, and learning styles.
- University College London prepared and manages BAME toolkit for this purpose - www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/sites/teaching-learning/files/bame_awarding_gap_toolkit_2020.pdf
- European University **Celebrating Diversity: Innovations for Inclusivity and Equality in Higher Education** https://run-eu.eu/2025/02/04/sap-celebrating-diversity-innovations-for-inclusivity-and-equality-in-higher-education/

Image Reference: **Towards Equity and Inclusion in Higher Education in Europe** *18 March 2022*
https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/towards-equity-and-inclusion-higher-education-europe

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Introduction to Inclusivity (1)

Why Inclusivity Matters?

- Enhances participation.

- Reduces achievement gaps.

- Promotes equity.

Students with disabilities who spend more of their school day in inclusive settings earn higher scores on tests of language ability
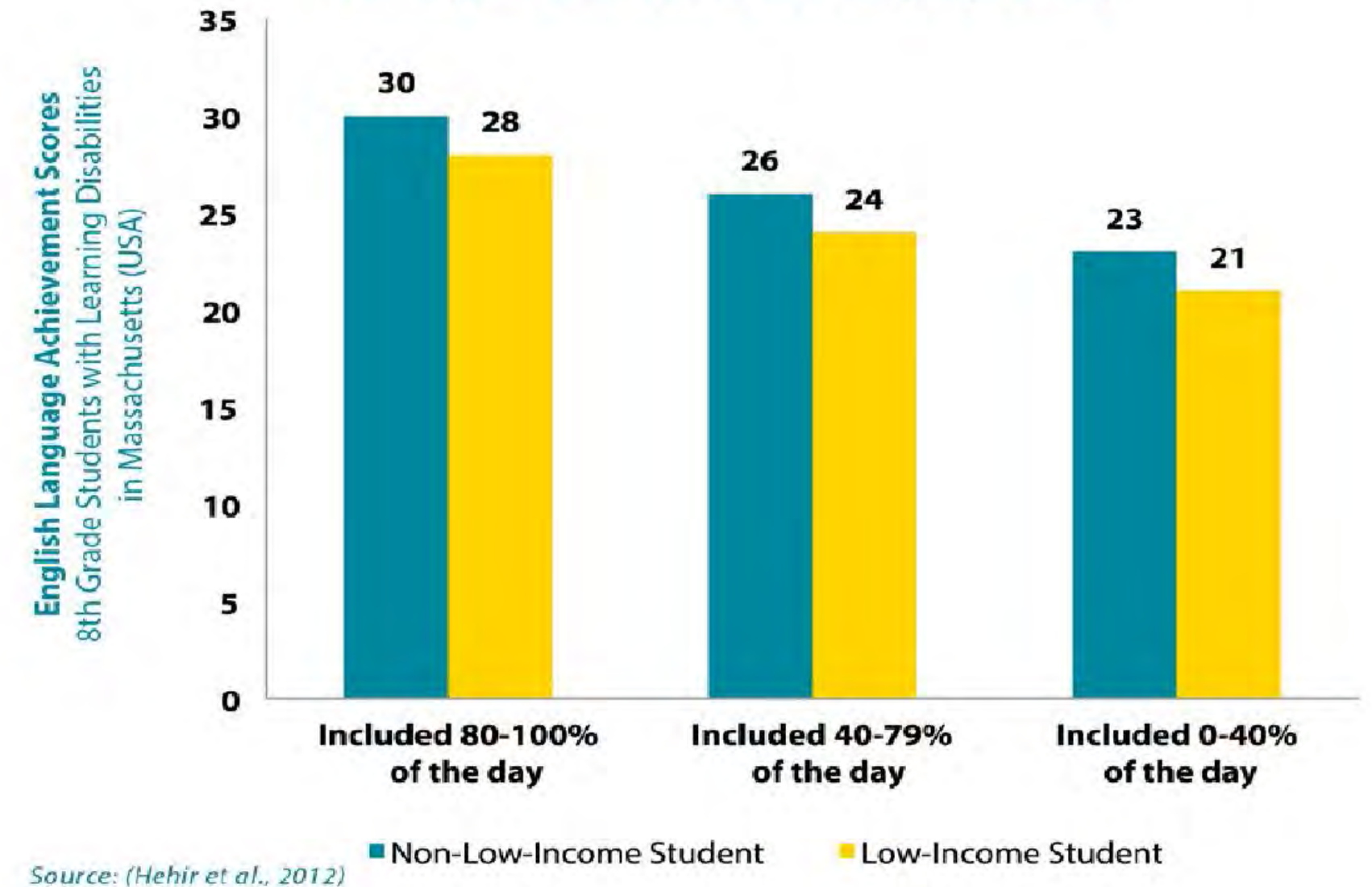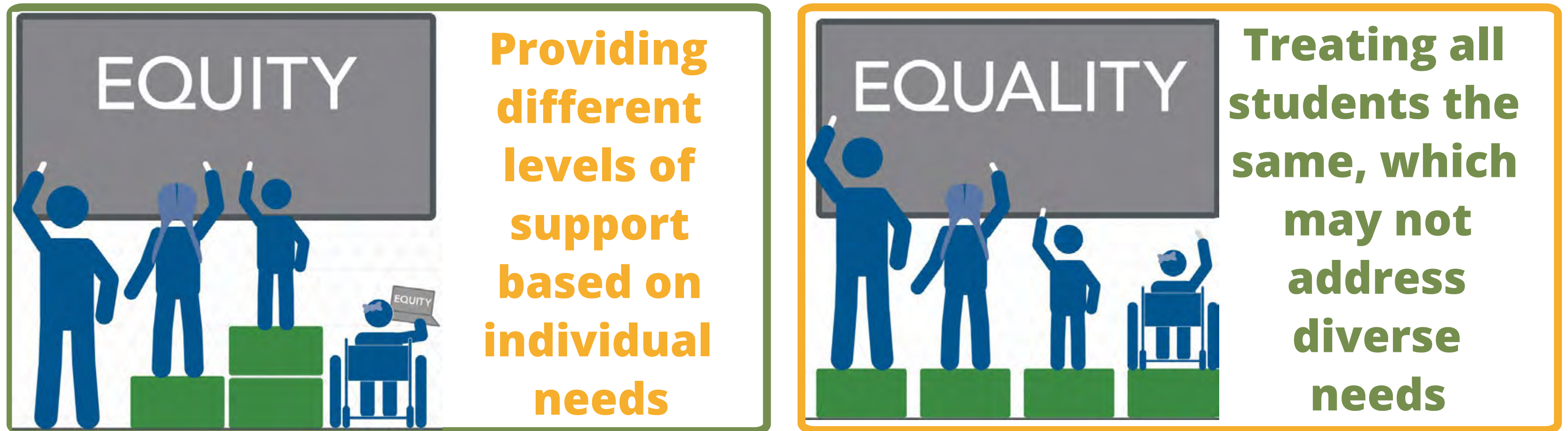
English Language Achievement Scores
8th Grade Students with Learning Disabilities in Massachusetts (USA)

Included 80-100% of the day: 30 (Non-Low-Income Student), 28 (Low-Income Student)
Included 40-79% of the day: 26 (Non-Low-Income Student), 24 (Low-Income Student)
Included 0-40% of the day: 23 (Non-Low-Income Student), 21 (Low-Income Student)

Source: (Hehir et al., 2012)

■ Non-Low-Income Student   ■ Low-Income Student

Principles of Inclusive Practices (2)

Equity vs. Equality

Providing different levels of support based on individual needs

Treating all students the same, which may not address diverse needs

- Edutopia.org's *"Equity in Education"* emphasizes that true equity in education requires adapting to each student's unique needs and background rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach.

Building an Inclusive Curriculum (1)

What is an Inclusive Curriculum?

- A curriculum that represents diverse perspectives, voices, and experiences.

- For example: Including works from different cultural backgrounds in a literature course.

Designing an Inclusive Curriculum

01 Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
02 Co-Design with Stakeholders
03 Intersectionality and Contextualization
04 Disability Narratives and Role Models
05 Assessment Strategies

https://fastercapital.com/keyword/inclusive-curriculum.html

Building an Inclusive Curriculum (2)

How to Adapt a Curriculum for Inclusivity

- Modify content to reflect diverse learning needs and cultural backgrounds.

- Advance HE's Higher Education Academy (HEA) offers a framework to promote and help teachers to generate inclusive curriculum in schools.

  https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/framework-inclusive-learning-and-teaching

Curriculum Adaptation for Diverse Learner

- Multisensory Materail
- Individualized Instructions
- Assistive Technology
- Modified Assignments

Read more on Prep with Harshita

https://prepwithharshita.com/curriculum-adaptations-for-diverse-learners/

Inclusive Teaching Strategies (1) Scaffold Learning

- Break learning into manageable steps with support at each stage.

- Examples:

  - https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/what-we-do/scaffold-card-game-revolutionise-teaching

  - https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12528-021-09300-3

  - https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/scaffolding-learning-environments-drive-independent-research

Image Reference: Learning Science Ltd, 3 Orchard Court, St Augustine's Yard, Bristol, Scaffolded Learning using Smart Worksheets https://www.carsondellosa.com/product_images/uploaded_images/pupilsandteacherlookingatglobeinlibrary-dms.jpg

Inclusive Teaching Strategies (2)

Differentiated Instruction

- Tailor teaching methods to suit the needs of different learners.

- For example: Offer students a choice in how they present their understanding (essay, video, presentation).

- Reading Rockers article <u>Differentiated Instruction in Action</u> is good resource about the differentiating content topic.
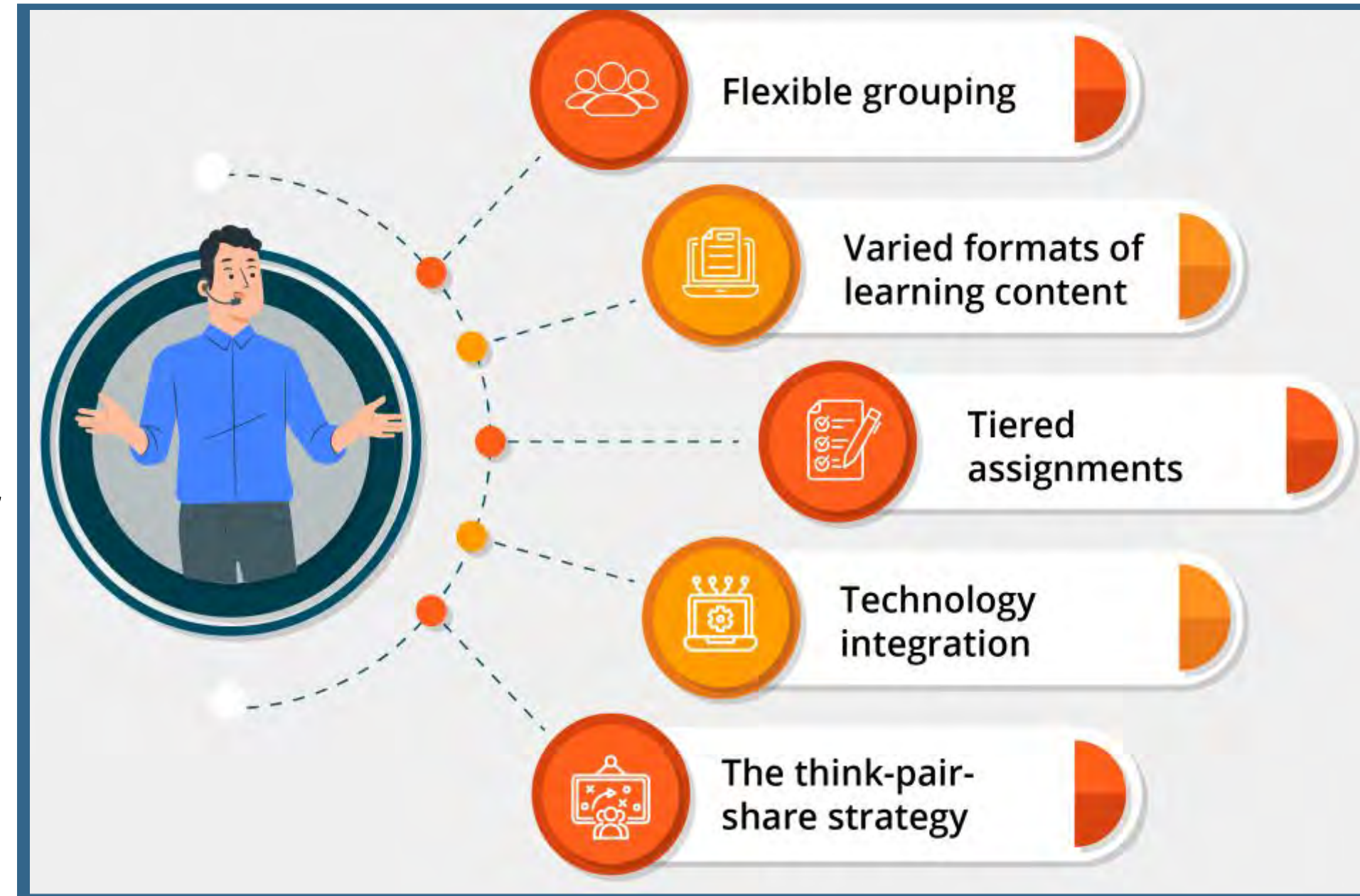

Flexible grouping

Varied formats of learning content

Tiered assignments

Technology integration

The think-pair-share strategy

Image Reference: <u>Best Practices for Differentiated Learning That Every Teacher Should Know About</u>, Extramarks Education SA (Pty) Ltd, South Africa

https://gcvltct13m8r.cdn.shift8web.com/blogs/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Best-Practice-Learn-Info-1024x806.png

Supporting Diverse Learners (1)

Understanding Learning Differences

- Cater to diverse learners including students with learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia, ADHD) and neurodivergent students (e.g., autism).

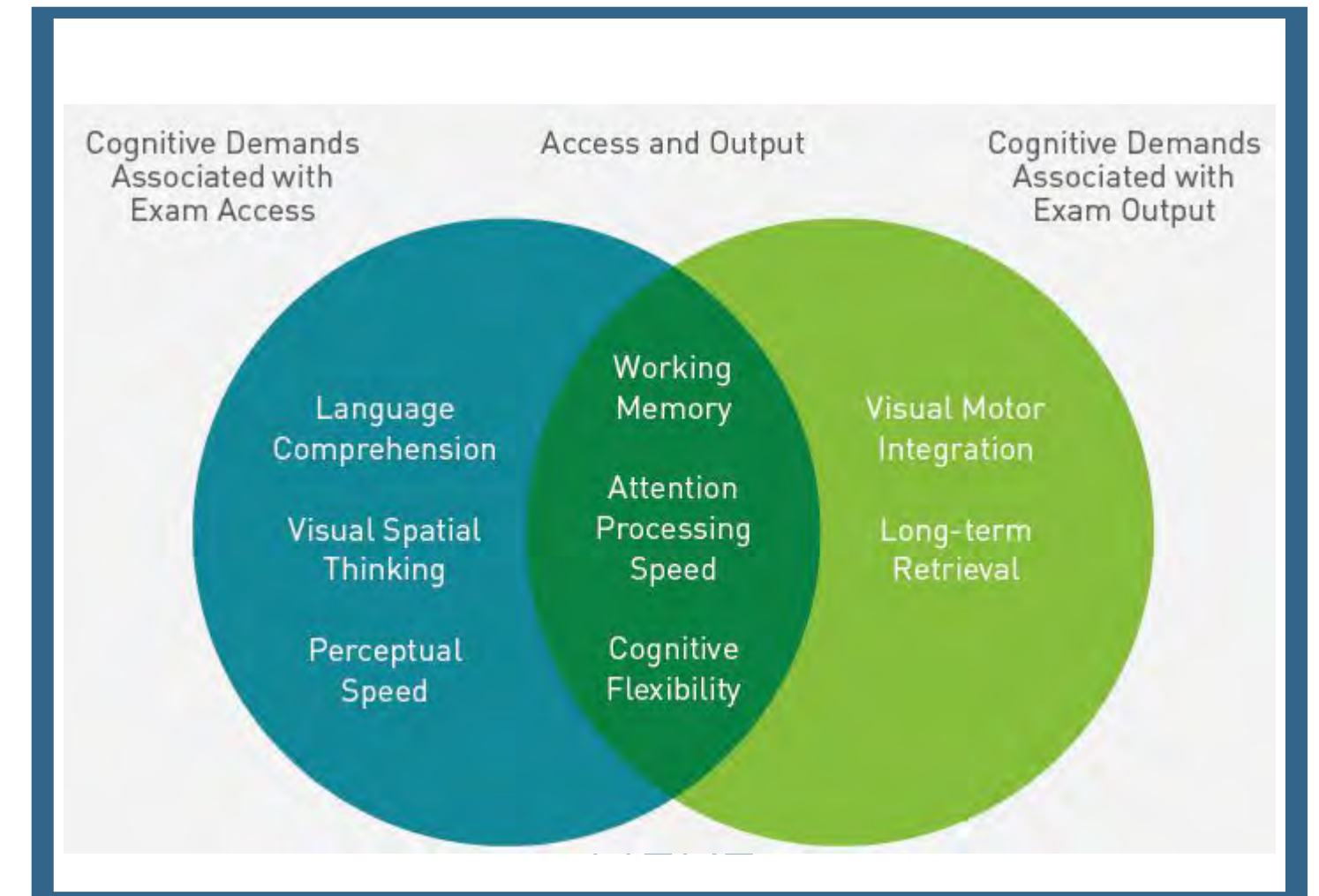- European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (EASNIE)
  https://www.european-agency.org/

Image Reference:
https://www.ahead.ie/journal/Learning-Differences-Cognitive-Diversity-and-Examinations-in-Higher-Education-Bringing-Disability-Services-and-Faculty-Together-Part1

© AHEAD
Working with and for disabled people to shape inclusive and empowering environments in tertiary education and employment
www.ahead.ie

Supporting Diverse Learners (2)

Accommodating Learning Disabilities

- Provide alternative assessment methods, extra time, and assistive technologies.

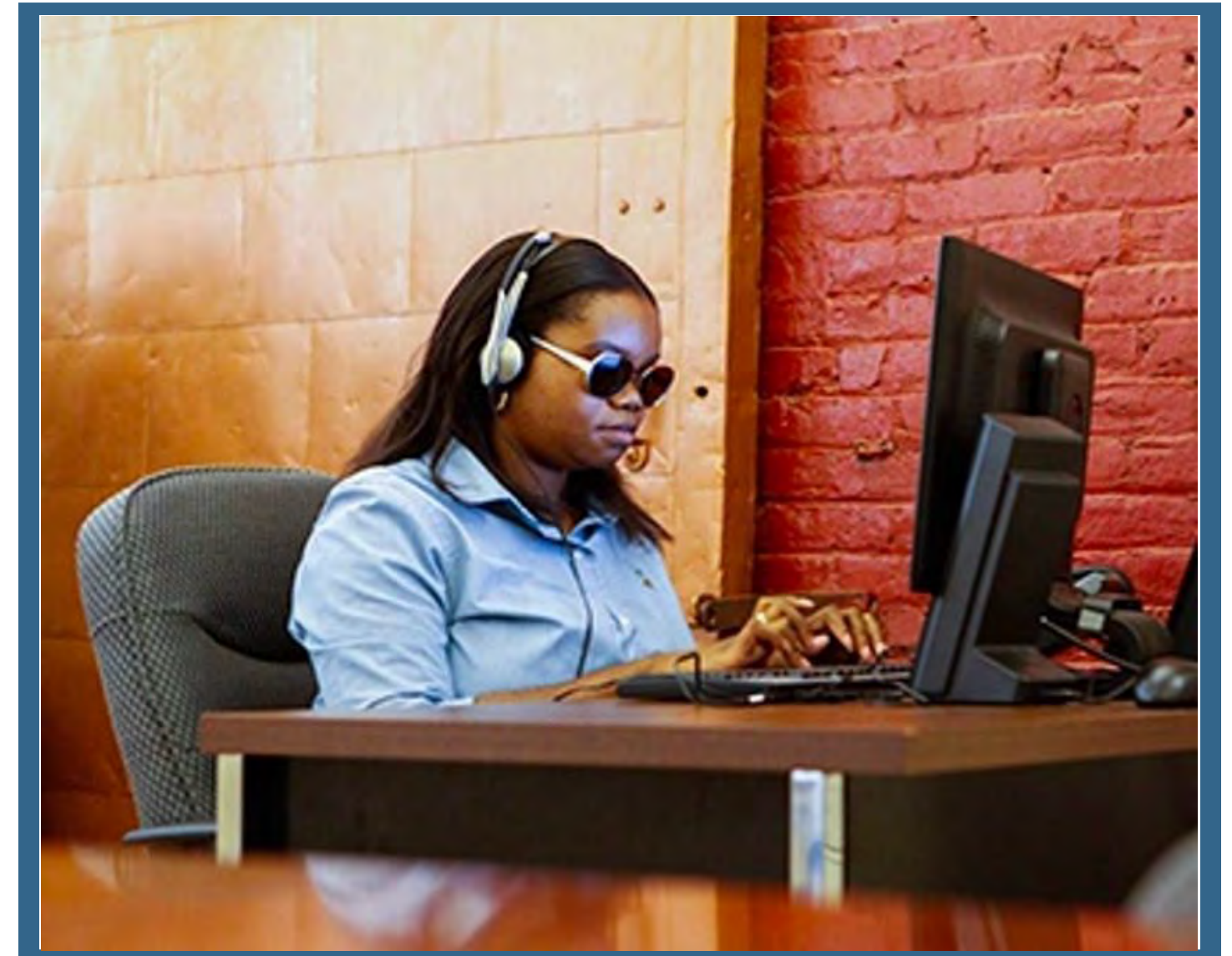- For example: Use of audiobooks or text-to-speech tools for students with dyslexia.

Image Reference: CapAble, Screen Readers
https://cap-able.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Screen-reader.jpg

Culturally Responsive Teaching (1)

Definition and Importance

- Incorporates students' cultural references in all aspects of learning.

- Zaretta Hammond's book, *"Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain"*, explores how neuroscience-backed, culturally responsive practices boost learning and engagement for diverse students. https://crtandthebrain.com/

https://culturallyresponsivepedagogy.com.au/

Culturally Responsive Teaching (2)

Practical Strategies

- Learn about students' cultural backgrounds.

- Incorporate relevant examples into the curriculum.

Image Reference: Photo by Stockcake (left) & If My Walls Could Talk, Edutopia.org (right)

https://stockcake.com/i/sunlit-classroom-interior_1042872_692826 (left) &

https://wpvip.edutopia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/hero_blog_culturally-responsive-teaching_20240111_065023.jpg (right)

Inclusive Assessment Practices (1)

What are Inclusive Assessments?

- Assessments designed to accommodate different learning styles and abilities.
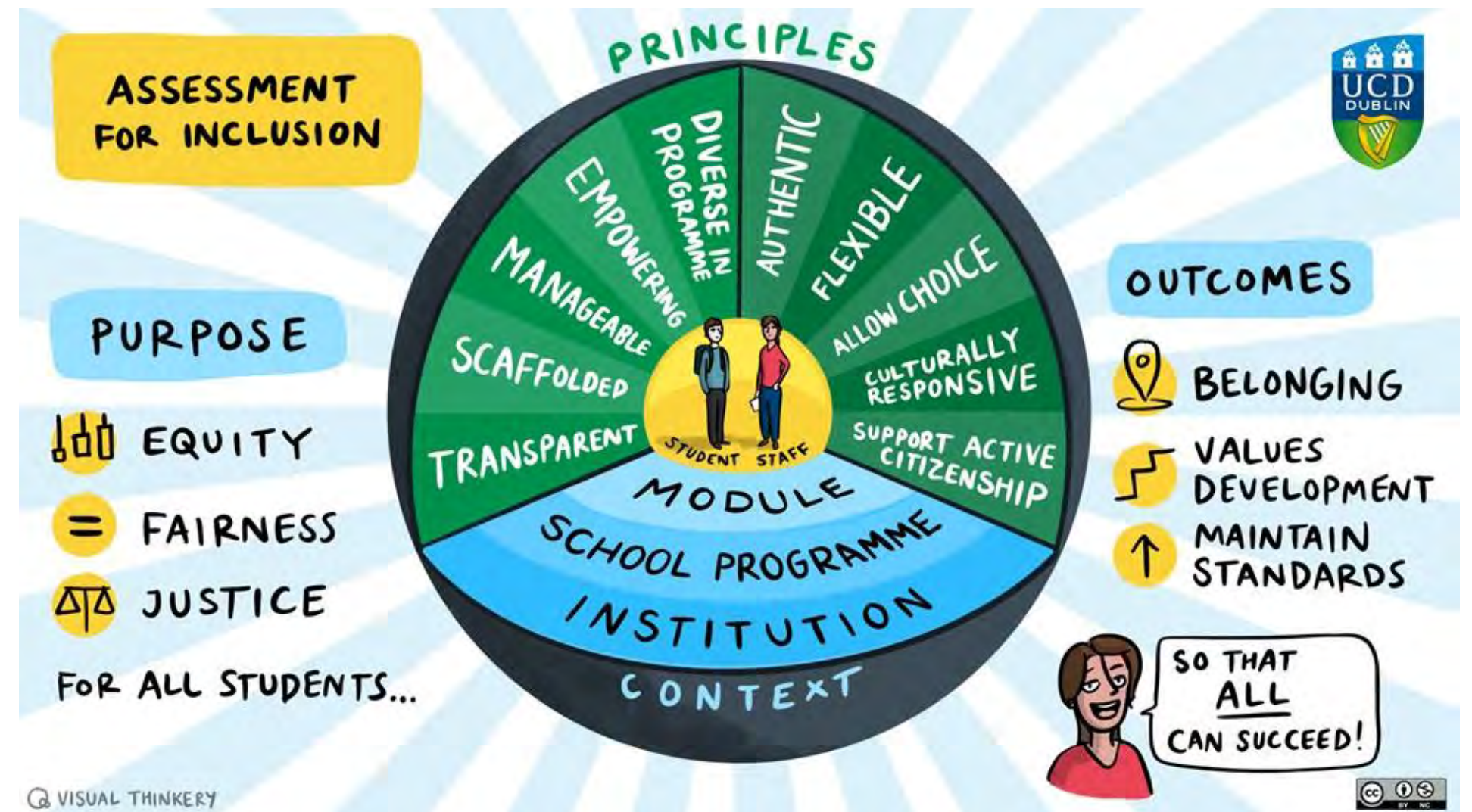
Inclusive Assessment Practices (2)

Offering Flexible Assessments

- Provide students with options for demonstrating their learning (e.g., portfolio, presentation, written report).
- CAST (also motioned in previous slides) prepared Inclusive Assessment Strategies for guidance . - https://www.cast.org/impact/universal-design-for-learning-udl

https://www.eklavvya.com/blog/revisit-assessment-strategy-2025/

Features of Flexible Assessments

Unique question paper for each of the candidate

Same overall difficulty of the question paper

No chances of question paper leakage or repetition

AI integrated malpractice prevention mechanism

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Inclusive Use of Technology (1)

- How Technology Can Support Inclusion:

1. Assistive technologies such as:

   o Screen readers

   o Speech-to-text

2. Adaptive learning tools.

Image Reference: NC State University, DELTA News, What is a Screen Reader?
https://news.delta.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2024/10/Blind-person-using-screenreading.FEAT_.png

Inclusive Use of Technology (2)

- Examples of Tools:
  - NVDA (screen reader)
  - Grammarly (writing support)
  - Kurzweil (reading support)
- Kurzweil Education claims its assistive technology products are built on UDL, allowing curriculum to be accessible to all students.

https://www.kurzweiledu.com/

https://www.neurodivercitysg.com/inclusive-technology.html

Inclusive Practices in Online Learning (1)

- Ensuring Online Accessibility:

- Online materials should be accessible for all, including students with disabilities (e.g., captions, alt text).

- The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)'s Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) is an effort to improve the accessibility of the World Wide Web for people with disabilities
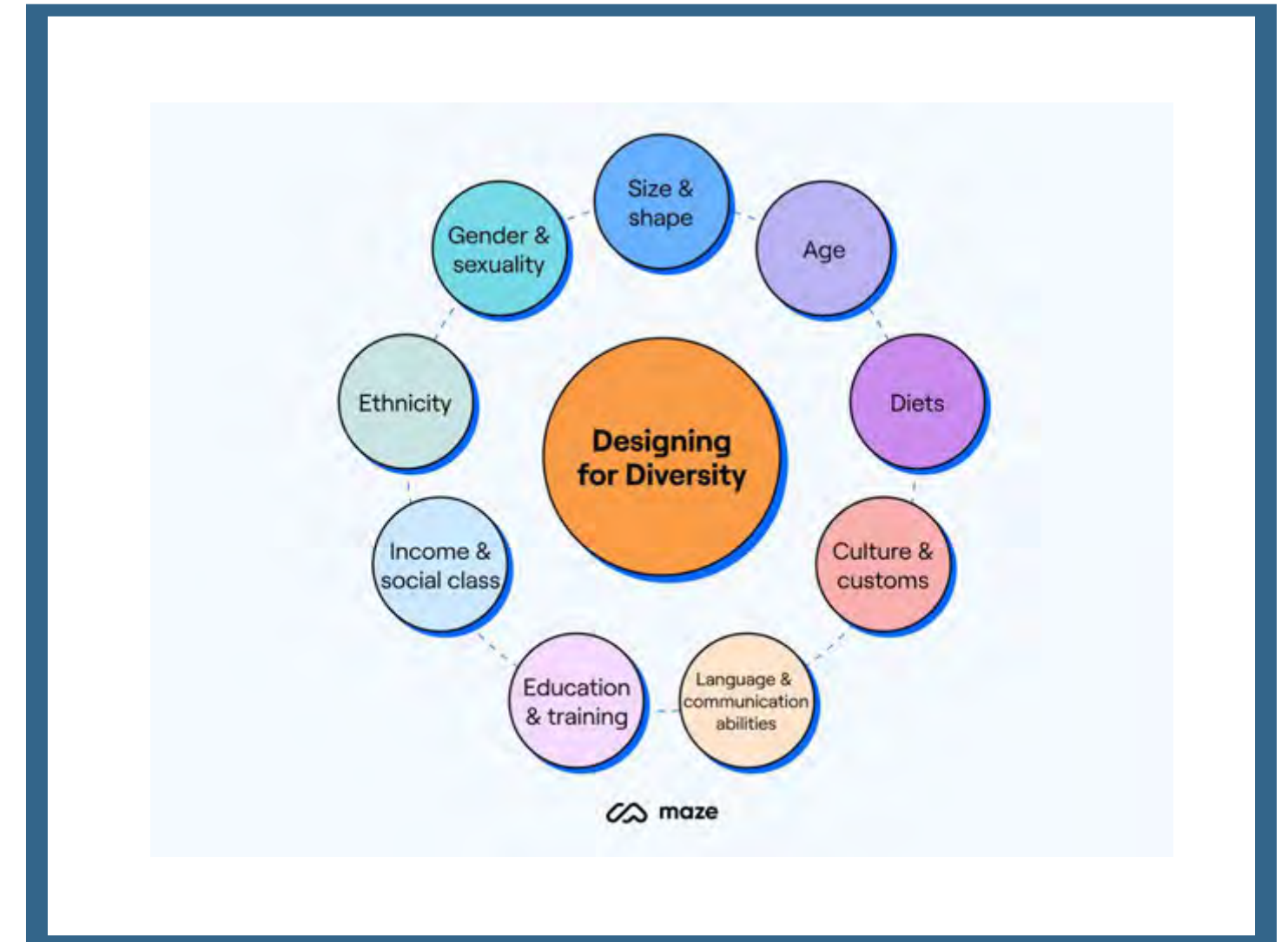

https://www.w3.org/WAI/

Inclusive Practices in Online Learning (2)

Designing Inclusive Online Courses:

- Provide content in **multiple formats** such as:
  - Videos
  - Texts
  - Interactive elements
- Moodle openly shares the status of accessibility in its LMS software as well as its plans.

  https://docs.moodle.org/405/en/Accessibility

https://maze.co/guides/inclusive-design/

Encouraging Collaboration and Peer Support

Peer Learning in Inclusive Classrooms

- Encourage group work and

- Peer support to promote a sense of community and inclusivity.
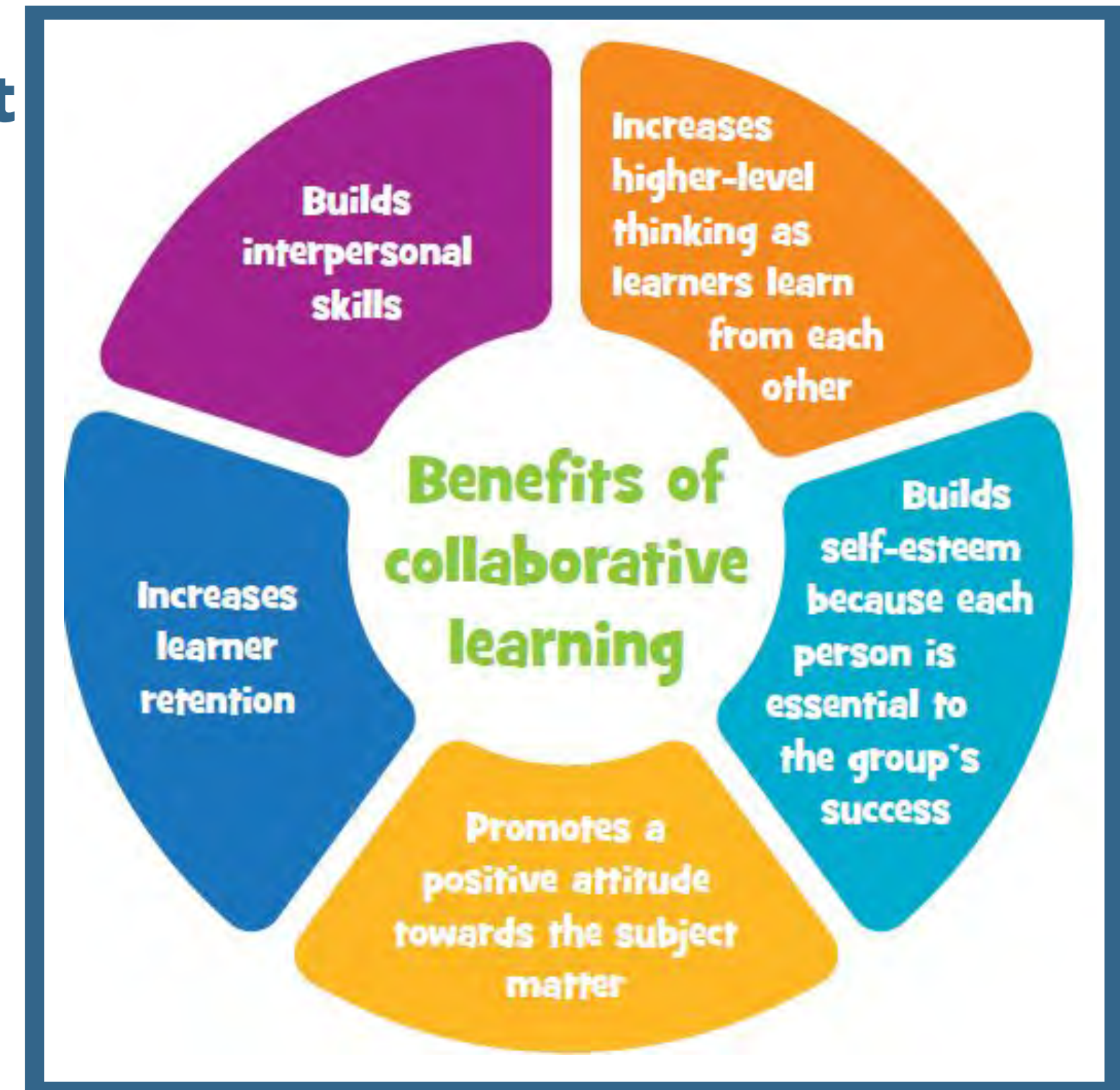
Image Reference: Establishing a collaborative learning environment, Macmillan Education South Africa

https://www.macmillaneducation.co.za/files/articles/2024/February/img1.png

Addressing Implicit Bias in Teaching (1)

What is Implicit Bias?

- Unconscious attitudes or stereotypes that affect understanding and actions.

- Project Implicit supplies various online **Implicit Association Tests (IAT)** on possible topics which aim to measure attitudes and beliefs that people may be unable, unaware or unwilling to report.
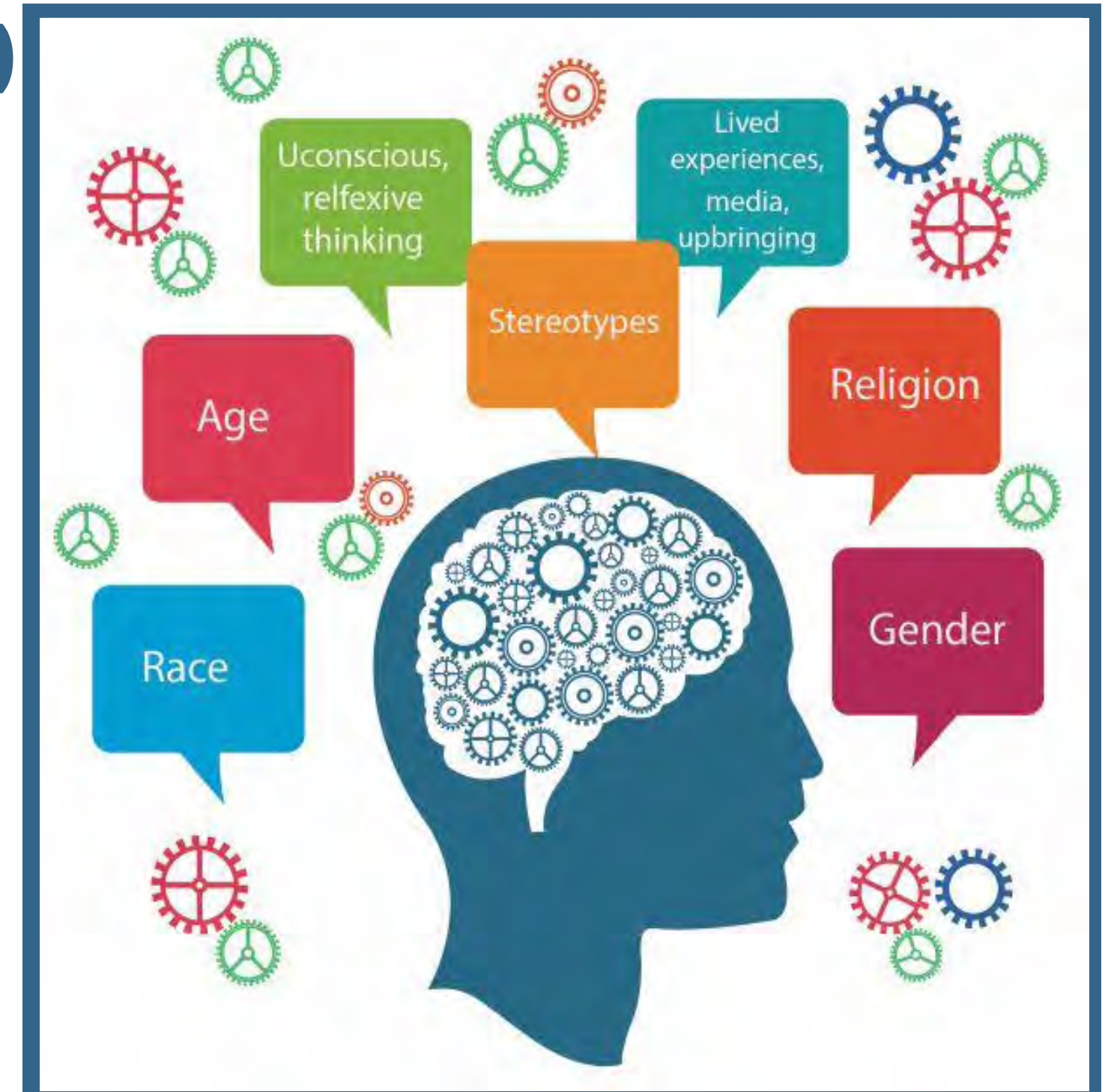
  https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/

Image Reference: Acknowledging Your Implicit Bias, IABC/Calgary, (iabccalgary.com)
https://iabccalgary.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Implicit-bias-600.jpg

Addressing Implicit Bias in Teaching (2)

Strategies to Mitigate Implicit Bias

- Reflect on biases

- Engage in self-assessment, and

- Seek diverse perspectives.

Image Reference: Implicit Bias (Unconscious Bias): Definition & Examples, Simply Scholar Ltd. 20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU

https://www.simplypsychology.org/wp-content/uploads/implicit-bias-1.jpg

Classroom Management for Inclusive Practices

- Managing Behavior in an Inclusive Classroom:
  - Create rules and expectations that account for diverse behaviors and needs.
  - For example: Use of positive behavior reinforcement.

https://www.chelseaps.vic.edu.au/page/232/School-Wide-Positive-Behaviour-
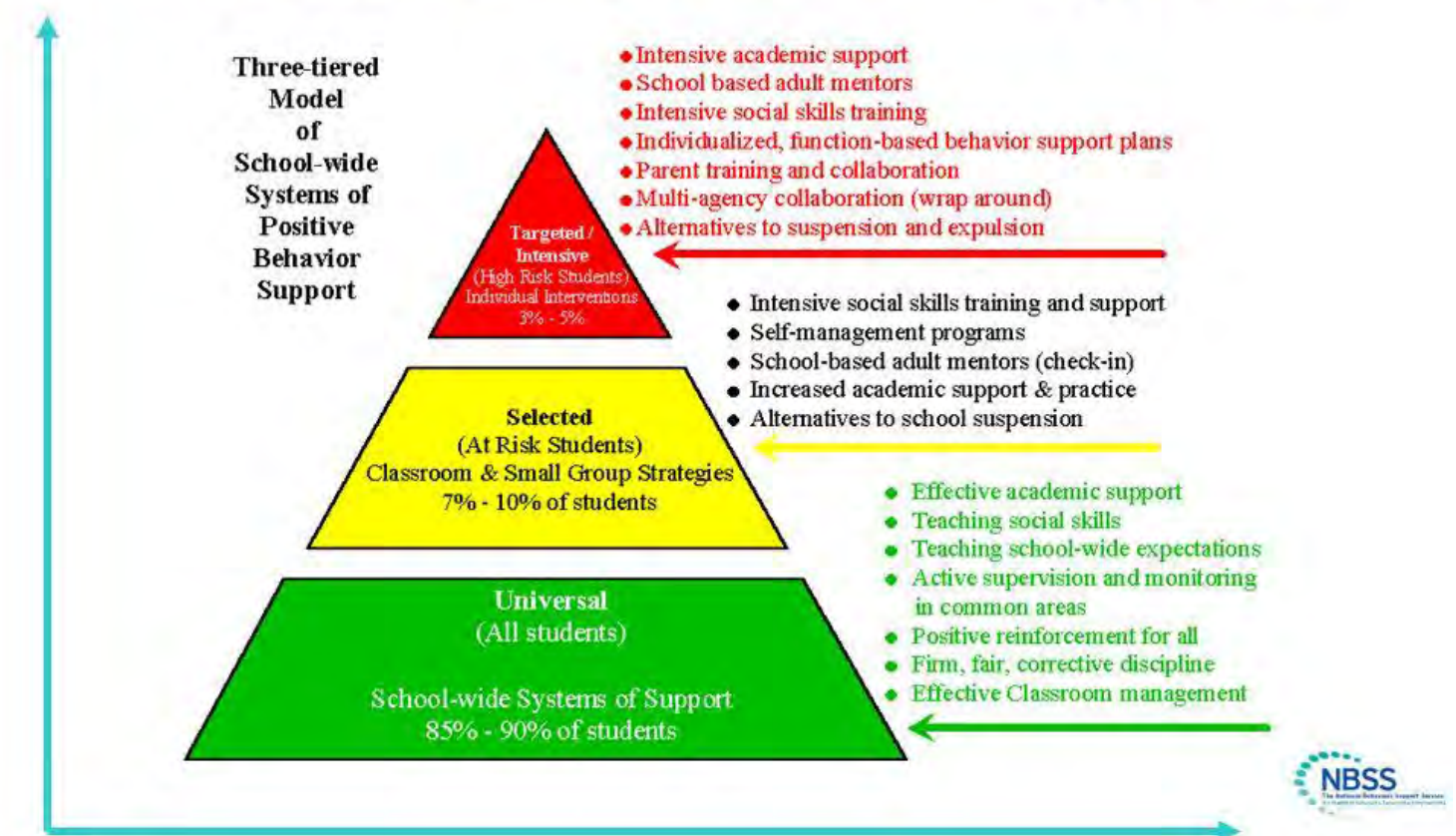
Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Inclusive Classrooms

- Supporting Students' Mental Health:
  - Recognize signs of mental health challenges and
  - Provide appropriate accommodations (e.g., flexible deadlines)
- Mental Health Foundation at UK aims to ensure every child receives education with mental health at its heart. https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/make-it-count
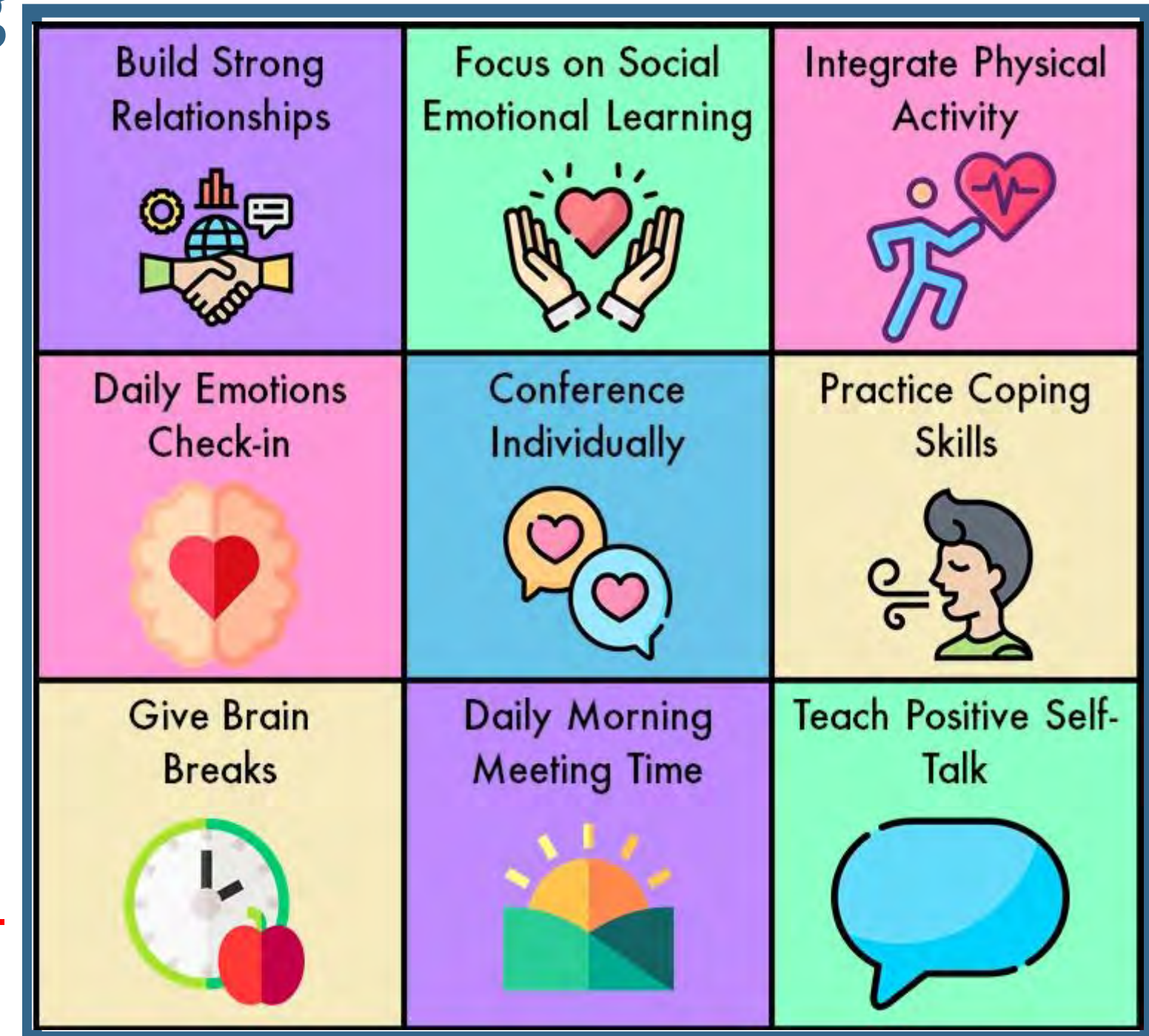
Interactive Activity: Applying Inclusive Practices in e-Learning Environments in HE

Consider the following actions:

- Review real-world scenarios of diverse learning needs and collaboratively identify strategies to enhance inclusivity in e-learning environments for Higher Education.

- How would you modify an existing e-learning module by applying inclusive design principles, such as accessible formatting, alternative content options, and interactive elements to support diverse learners.

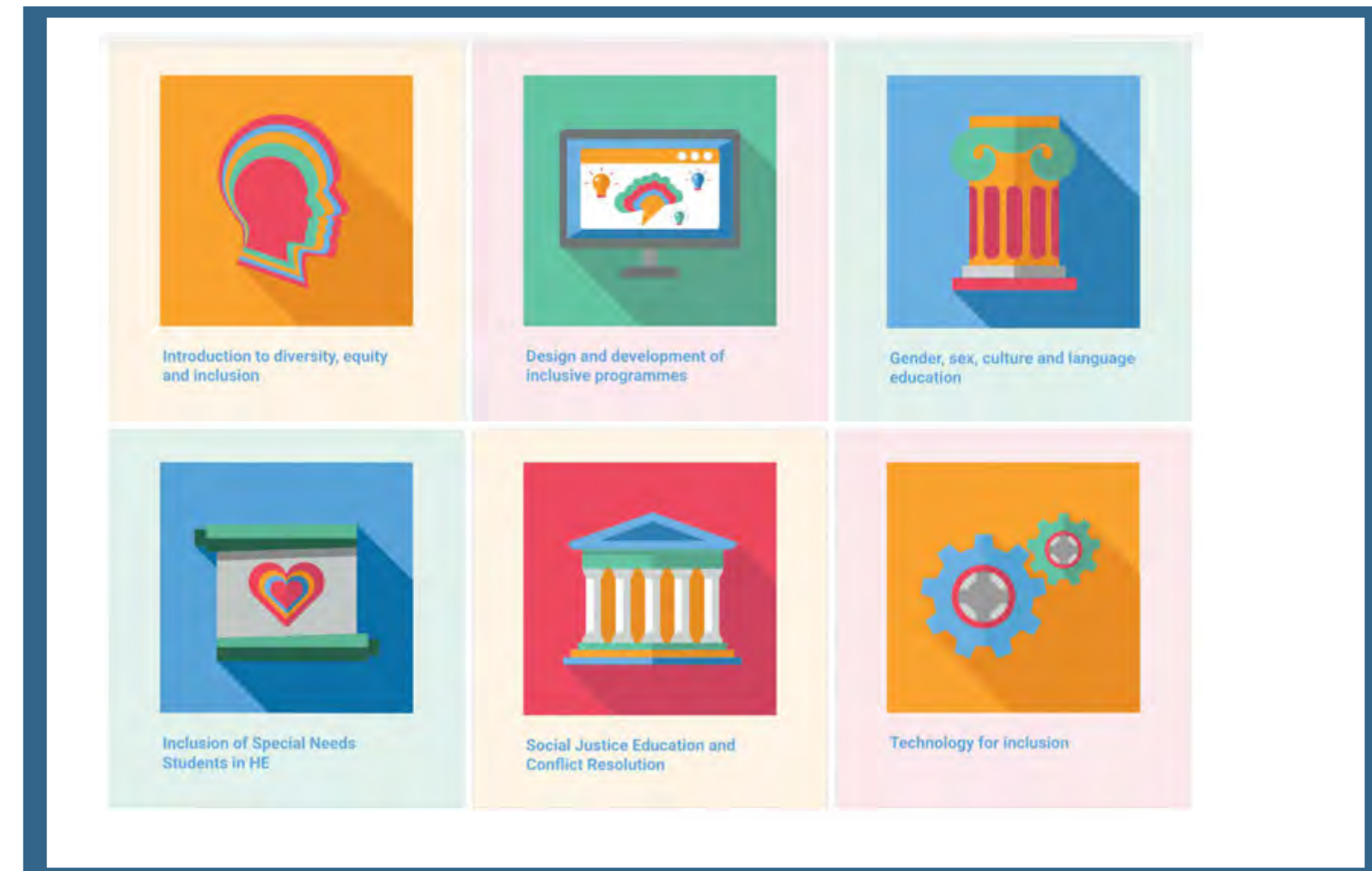- **Note:** Small groups create an inclusive lesson plan using the strategies discussed.

Image Reference:https://inclusivehe.eu/en/e-learning

Designing and supporting inclusive practices in Higher Education

Discussion: Challenges in Implementing Inclusivity

- What are the challenges you face in implementing inclusive practices?
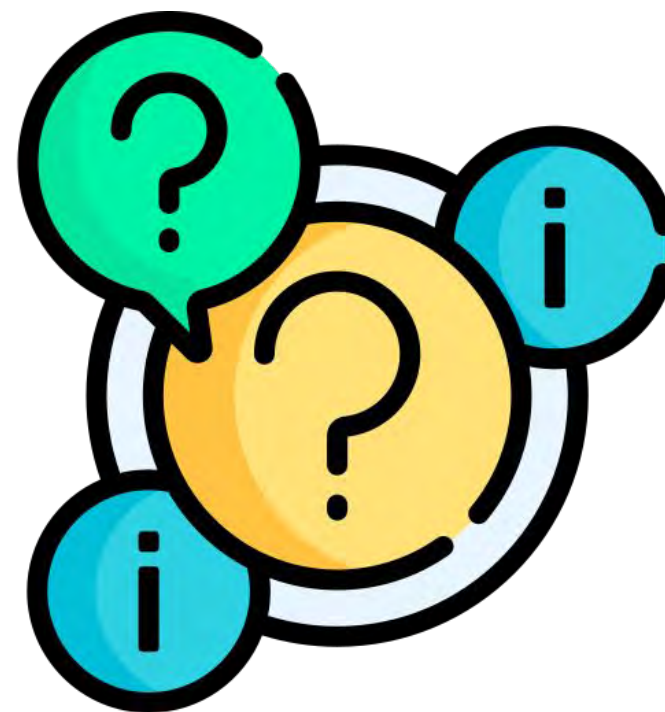
- How can they be addressed?

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Conclusion & Key Takeaways

- Key Points:
  - **Inclusivity benefits all students** by fostering a supportive and equitable learning environment.
  - Practical strategies such as UDL, differentiated instruction, and **inclusive assessment are critical.**
  - Reflect on biases, build a respectful culture, and use technology to **support diverse learners.**

- **Learning Outcome:** Equip educators with strategies to foster inclusivity in teaching.

https://www.allplaylearn.org.au/inclusive-communities/benefits/

Do you have any questions?

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Thank you!

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