

Differentiated Back-to-School Night planning guide for teachers

Purpose: Help you design a Back-to-School Night presentation that highlights how you'll meet the unique needs, backgrounds, and strengths of every student—showing families you value equity and personalized learning from day one.



Quick steps for a differentiated presentation

1. Welcome every family

- Prepare a friendly introduction that shares your appreciation for diversity in your classroom.
- Ask families to share one thing that helps their child learn best (in person, sticky note, or digital form).

2. Showcase your approach to differentiation

- Explain—in clear, simple language—how you adapt lessons and support for different learners (e.g., small group work, varied activities, tools like M2 for personalized help).
- Share how students have voice and choice in how they learn and show understanding.
- Mention systems for translation, scaffolding, or enrichment as needed.

3. Invite family partnership

- Provide specific ways families can support differentiation at home (e.g., encouraging questions, sharing what strategies work best for their child).
- Let families know you're eager to communicate and partner about their child's needs throughout the year.



Teacher checklist

- ☐ Prepare a short slide or talking point about your commitment to meeting each student's needs.
- ☐ Include one or two real examples of differentiation in your classroom (rotations, alternative assignments, use of tech).
- ☐ Invite families to tell you about their child's strengths and needs—provide paper, digital surveys, or an open email invitation.
- ☐ Clearly share your contact info and communication preferences.
- ☐ Close by thanking families for their partnership in supporting EVERY learner.



Tip

A differentiated Back-to-School Night presentation helps families feel welcomed and reassured that you're focused on what makes every child unique—building trust and partnership for the year ahead.