

Small groups: Ideas by student need

M2 extends the teacher's reach in the classroom by facilitating small group learning, making it possible to differentiate instruction, increase student voice, and provide timely support for every learner.



Gifted & talented (GT) students

Goal: Extend thinking, promote independence, and deepen conceptual understanding.

Classroom benefit: Promotes higher-order thinking and keeps advanced learners challenged without requiring constant teacher-created extensions.

- Discovery learning: Have students explore a new concept and explain their understanding before formal instruction.
- Extension tasks: Ask M2 to generate more complex, multi-step problems or scenarios.
- "Teach the teacher": Students explain a concept as if they are teaching it.
- Debate / justify: Students defend their reasoning or compare multiple strategies.
- Create their own: Students design problems or prompts and explain solutions.



English learners (EL)

Goal: Build language access while maintaining rigor.

Classroom benefit: Increases access to grade-level content while simultaneously accelerating language development.

- Translation support: Students complete tasks in their native language, then reflect in English (or vice versa).
- Vocabulary practice: Students explain key terms in their own words.
- Sentence stems: Provide structured responses for speaking and reflection.
- Visual + verbal: Pair images/problems with verbal explanations.



MTSS / Intervention groups

Goal: Target specific skill gaps with scaffolded support.

Classroom benefit: Provides targeted, differentiated support aligned to individual student needs and intervention goals - even without additional staff support.

- Goal-based practice: Input student goals and have M2 generate aligned problems/activities.
- Chunking tasks: Break problems into smaller steps and respond step-by-step.
- Think-aloud support: Students explain each step of their thinking.
- Error correction: Students analyze incorrect work and explain fixes.
- Repetition with variation: Generate multiple similar problems for practice.



On-level / Core instruction groups

Goal: Reinforce grade-level skills and ensure understanding.

Classroom benefit: Strengthens conceptual understanding and gives teachers real-time insight into student thinking.

- Strategy explanation: Students explain how they solved a problem.
- Peer response: Students listen and respond to a classmate's thinking.
- Quick checks: Use short prompts for formative assessment.
- Compare methods: Students explain different ways to solve the same problem.



Enrichment / Spiral review groups

Goal: Maintain previously learned skills and connect concepts.

Classroom benefit: Helps prevent learning loss by continuously reinforcing and connecting past and current learning.

- Mixed review: Generate spiral review problems across standards.
- Real-world connections: Apply skills to real-life scenarios.
- Reflection prompts: "What do you remember about this concept?"



Students with dyslexia

Goal: Reduce reading barriers while strengthening comprehension and expression.

Classroom benefit: Reduces cognitive overload and allows students to demonstrate understanding without being limited by decoding challenges.

- Verbal processing first: Allow students to explain thinking verbally before reading/writing.
- Audio directions: Hear the directions along with seeing the printed text.
- Chunked text: Break passages or problems into smaller parts and respond step-by-step.
- Multisensory connection: Pair visuals, spoken responses, and minimal text.



Shy / reluctant speakers

Goal: Build confidence and increase student voice in a low-risk environment.

Classroom benefit: Creates a safe pathway for participation, leading to increased confidence and more consistent student engagement.

- Private recording first: Students record responses before sharing with a group.
- Gradual release: Start with individual responses → partner sharing → group discussion.
- Sentence starters: Provide simple prompts to reduce anxiety ("I think...", "I noticed...").
- Celebrate growth: Focus on effort and improvement rather than correctness.



Facilitate small groups video