★ Optimize Challenge and Support

Day 117

# Differentiate Demands

In UDL-focused lessons, all learners need to be challenged, but not necessarily in the same way. Different students may have different learning targets and personal goals during the same classroom tasks; therefore, teachers need to regularly vary classroom demands (CAST, 2024). This can be accomplished in many ways:

- *Differentiate the degree of difficulty in an activity. All students may be learning multiplication at the same time, but some will be tackling single-digit problems while others are attempting double- or even triple-digit problems.*
- *Provide helpful scaffolds and supports. Some students will be able to complete a five-paragraph essay without any tools, and others will need paragraph frames, graphic organizers, and peer assistance.*
- *Expect and allow variation in the performance of skills and competencies. During a unit in physical education, some students will be working on throwing a football just a few feet, while others may be learning to throw the ball to a classmate in motion several yards away.*
- *Emphasize process, effort, and improvement instead of external evaluation. Help students see how their skills are progressing. Work with them to set goals beyond tests and grades.*