Make Special Education/Regular Education Instructional Connections

The following modifications are listed for use by teachers in adjusting instruction to respond to the needs of special education students.

Which of these also would be useful in teaching
✓ regular education students at some time?
✓ all students at some time?
✓ all students all the time?

1. Extend time on task for class and homework assignments
2. Explain directions and give concrete examples
3. Reduce load and allow for extra credit
4. Maintain frequent eye contact
5. Give verbal directions in clearly stated steps
6. Test one concept at a time
7. Allow use of calculator, tape recorder, or computer
8. Walk by student’s desk to check for accuracy and on task behaviors every 15 minutes
9. Give multiple choice tests, matching, or sentence completion tests instead of essay tests often
10. Write assignments and give verbal instructions
11. Provide visual aids
12. Give simple directions with written examples
13. Ask student to explain what you said in his/her own words
14. Reinforce previously mastered skills
15. Provide motivation and verbal rewards on a daily basis
16. Enlist parental cooperation

Chicago Teaching Connections
A professional development initiative of the DePaul Center for Urban Education
Funded by the US Department of Education Office of Special Education