## Collaboration Benefits

| Develops complex thinking skills | Critical thinking: Group discussions and debates foster critical thinking skills.  
Oral communication: Students share ideas, respond to questions and comments, and interact during collaboration, which helps develop oral communication skills.  
Problem solving: Groups tackle problems from a wider perspective and consider many more options than an individual would, developing problem solving skills through the support of the group.  
Metacognition: Collaboration focuses on the process of learning, which often includes the assessment of work, group interactions, and one’s own contributions to the group.  
Creativity: Collaborative learning strategies are innovative and involve a variety of activities, encouraging students to learn and present material in interesting ways, including video, graphical illustrations, models, and so forth. |
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| Improves academic achievement | Higher content retention: Students working in small groups tend to learn more of what is taught and retain it longer than when the same content is presented in other instructional formats.  
Deeper understanding: Students in groups often handle challenging situations that are beyond the capabilities of individual students.  
Learning goals achievement: When individuals get stuck, they often tend to give up; however, groups usually find ways to keep going and achieve learning goals.  
On-task behavior: Students in groups focus and engage on the task, and individuals who may otherwise disrupt class are less likely to be disruptive.  
Diversity of understanding: Students who work with people who have different learning styles, abilities, ages, or cultural backgrounds gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for individual and cultural differences.  
Scaffolding benefits: Students who have the support of scaffolds in collaborative learning are more successful in solving simple problems than those who do not have scaffolds. |
### Addresses needs of all students

**Differentiation:** The variety of activities during collaborative experiences allows the teacher to adjust assignments based on individual learning needs.

**Different learning styles:** Students who collaborate often use a variety of learning modalities.

**Heterogeneous groups:** Lower-performing students and higher-achieving students improve their performance when grouped together.

### Fosters social development

**Cooperation:** Students learn how to interact positively and encourage each member for the benefit of the group.

**Interpersonal relationships:** Students develop social interaction skills as they learn to work together and help each other.

**Conflict resolution skills:** Collaborative learning helps students resolve disagreements through compromise and consensus.

**Global citizenship:** Students who collaborate with peers around the world develop an understanding of different cultures and extend their learning.