

Preface

This book, *41 Active Learning Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom, Grades 6–12*, is the sequel to our first, *40 Active Learning Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom, Grades K–5*, which was designed to support diverse learners at the elementary level. Much of the impetus for our second book came from teachers and preservice teachers we have worked with over the years. They have frequently raised concerns that it can be even more difficult for secondary teachers to support diverse student populations in inclusive settings. In workshops we have conducted and classes we have taught, teachers and students often begin discussions with “How do I . . . ?” This book attempts to answer these questions with many concrete strategies and applications.

The strategies in this book have been developed to address the needs of the adolescent learner. Our intent is to make lesson preparation more effective by offering teachers several active, learning-based strategies to support learning objectives. Strategies can be adapted and modified as needed.

The topics we list in each strategy are merely starting points, suggestions to help you visualize how the strategies might be used. Feel free to take these strategies and run with them, to infuse your own expertise and content knowledge, and to use them as best meets the needs of your students and your curriculum.

We believe these active learning strategies effectively support secondary school learning and will inspire and motivate teachers and students alike.

Based on the positive feedback we received from the publication of *40 Active Learning Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom, Grades K–5*, we have organized this book to include the following:

- A modified and expanded first chapter discusses the research and describes inclusion challenges at the secondary level and characteristics of the adolescent learner. It also provides the foundation and historical context of inclusive practice.
- The second chapter addresses the efficacy of using active learning for upper grades.
- The fifth chapter contains 31 completely new strategies designed to address the needs of the adolescent learner. Ten strategies from the first book have been revised with examples and vignettes that reflect middle school and high school curriculum and standards.