
Specific Learning Disability (SLD) Standards

The Background:

On June 21, 2013, State Board of Education approved on final reading changes to the guidelines and standards for the disability category of specific learning disability.

Effective July 1, 2014, the guidelines and standards are amended to eliminate the use of a discrepancy method and require the use of Response to Intervention (RTI) methods when determining whether a child in grades K – 12 has a specific learning disability.

The section of the guidelines on students' rate of improvement has been slightly revised to ensure full consistency with the RTI method.

In addition, the department of education, after consideration of feedback from local education agencies about the implementation of RTI methods in grades 6 - 12, recommends that the guidelines and standards for the disability category of specific learning disability be further amended to provide an application process whereby local education agencies may seek approval from the Department to extend the effective date for implementation of an RTI method until July 1, 2015 for grades 6 – 8 and until July 1, 2016 for grades 9 - 12. Approved local education agencies could continue to use a discrepancy method when determining whether a child in grades 6 - 8 has a specific learning disability until July 1, 2015, and grades 9 – 12 until July 1, 2016, at which times an RTI method will be mandatory.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.