

Public Posting of process used to determine existence of a Specific Learning Disability

Memo from MDE:



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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSE-EIS 10-07

May 14, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Intermediate School District Directors of Special Education,
Local Educational Agency Special Education Contracts, Public School
Academy Administrators

FROM: Eleanor E. White, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

SUBJECT: Requirement to Make Public School District Processes for Determining
the Existence of a Specific Learning Disability

Consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004 (IDEA) regulation § 300.307(a), the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services has established the criteria that must be followed to determine the existence of a Specific Learning Disability (SLD) (attached).

On or before September 1, 2010, each local educational agency (LEA) and public school academy (PSA) must publicly post on their web site, or make public through other means, the process or combination of processes which will be used by the LEA or PSA to determine the existence of a SLD. (§ 300.307(b) and § 300.600(d)(2)).

If you have questions, you may contact Joanne Winkelman at (517) 373-1696, or via email at winkelmanj@michigan.gov.

c: William Mayes, MASA
David Martell, MSBO
Dan Quisenberry, MAPSA
Billie Wimmer, MCCSA
Kathy Hayes, MASB

Attachment

Statement from Joanne Winkelman, Coordinator, MDE OSE/EIS

Memorandum: Requirement to Make Public School District Processes for Determining the Existence of a Specific Learning Disability (May 14, 2010)
Michigan Criteria for Determining the Existence of a Specific Learning Disability (May 2010)

Posting District Process for Determining SLD Eligibility:

- The OSE-EIS does not require districts to obtain local school board approval of their process or processes for determining SLD eligibility before posting.
- The posting must be kept current (reflect current school, district practices).
- Districts must minimally, post the process or processes being used at each school – so that every parent will know what criteria is being used in each grade at each school.

Resource

Michigan Criteria for Determining the Existence of a Specific Learning Disability (May 2010) Page 6, Section VI.

Sample Statement for District:

District Process for Determination of a Specific Learning Disability:

Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses Process:

The district uses a Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses Process for the determination of a Specific Learning Disability for all buildings and all grades in the district and includes the following:

1. The student does not achieve adequately for the student's age or to meet State-approved grade-level standards in one or more of the areas identified at 34 CFR §300.309(a)(1)(i) when provided with learning experiences and instruction appropriate for the student's age or State-approved grade-level standards; and
2. The student exhibits a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, State-approved grade-level standards, or intellectual development, that is determined by the MET to be relevant to the identification of a SLD, using appropriate assessments, consistent with the IDEA Evaluation Procedures and Additional Requirements for Evaluations and Reevaluations.