



Public Schools of North Carolina

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

NC's Exceptional Children SLD Policy Addendum:

Based on the amendments to the SLD policy that were approved by the NC SBE in February 2016, to become fully implemented by all public schools by July 1, 2020 :

- The use of cognitive assessments as part of a full and individual evaluation of students suspected of a learning disability is not prohibited.
- What is prohibited is the use of cognitive discrepancy formulas of any type in determining special education eligibility for SLD.
- Within the instructional model of identification that was approved, there are 4 criteria that need to be sufficiently established:

Criterion 1 – Adequate instruction

Criterion 2 – Rule out of exclusionary factors

Criterion 3 – Inadequate achievement

Criterion 4 – Insufficient rate of progress

Of course, there are many details associated with the above criteria. One important detail is the addition of the *requirement* for diagnostic assessment within policy:

1503-2.5 (d)(11)(i)(I) *Multiple sources of educational assessment data, which must include, but are not limited to: universal screening, interim/benchmark assessments, data from progress monitoring and formal and/or informal diagnostic assessments. Student performance must include comparison to state and/or national norms, and district norms when available.*

A definition of diagnostic assessment was added to policy that states:

1500-2.x *Diagnostic assessments and processes are used to assist in developing hypotheses about why a problem is occurring and to identify a student's specific skill deficits and strengths in order to determine the instructional focus and to inform decisions about how to adapt and individualize interventions. They allow instruction and interventions to be focused on the specific target skill and sets of skills that will increase overall academic or behavioral competency. They assist educators in teaching precisely to realize the largest gains in student achievement.*

In order to gain more information, it is suggested that interested parties review the following:

[Findings and Recommendations of the SLD Task Force](#)

[NC Policies - Addendum](#)

[SLD fact sheet](#) (#1) - #2 is set to be released by the end of October, and there will be more of these developed to address questions and concerns that arise

Also, below are the links to the webinar and slides conducted by Lynn Makor and Lynne Loeser in August:

Supporting Appropriate Evaluation and Identification of SLD – A Framework to Guide Implementation

[Access the webinar](#)

[Access the slides](#)

The SLD Implementation Guide is currently in draft form and in the hands of a review team. The review and vetting process may take a few months; however, NC DPI EC Division will continue to develop guidance for the field throughout this year via fact sheets, webinars and other in-person offerings. The school psychology website is current undergoing updates; however, SLD specific materials and resources will be accessible there by the end of October. Currently, the [SLD page](#) of the MTSS wikispace is the best place to go to access information and updates specific to SLD.



Public Schools of North Carolina State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

If there are any additional questions, please feel free to contact the individuals below. These individuals can discuss in greater detail NC DPI Exceptional Children Division's plan to move forward in developing appropriate evaluation and identification practices in the area of SLD.

Lynn K. Makor, MA, CAGS

Consultant for School Psychology
NC Department of Public Instruction/
Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities
www.cidd.unc.edu/schoolPsychology/
[DPI School Psychology Listserv](#)

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Campus Box #7255
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3366
919-843-7049 (office)
919-966-2230 (fax)

Lynne Loeser, M.Ed.

LD/ADHD Statewide Consultant
Supporting Teaching and Related Services
Exceptional Children Division
NC Department of Public Instruction
6356 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6356
lynne.loeser@dpi.nc.gov
(P) 919-807-3980
(F) 919-807-3243
<http://mtss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/>
Follow me on Twitter @lynne_loeser

To sign up for the Specific Learning Disability Educator listserv, please [click here](#).