

September 8, 2011

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is pleased to offer Initial Guidance for Implementing Wisconsin Criteria for Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). This set of resources has been developed to assist Local Educational Agency (LEA) staff and community members to understand and apply the requirements for identifying students with SLD. The resources include an introductory overview, responses to frequently asked questions, revised criteria checklists, forms, and a number of other related documents and are available at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/ld.html>.

The release of this Initial Guidance will be accompanied by training opportunities around the state. Information about the dates and locations of the workshops will be posted on the DPI website. Registration information will be available through the CESA in your region.

This is the first of a series of technical assistance resources and activities that will continue to be made available in advance of the December 1, 2013 sunset on the use of significant discrepancy for considering SLD eligibility. The department is working with experts in the field to complete the next set of guidance materials. Implementation Guidance will be available next and will be accompanied by additional workshop opportunities. The Implementation Guidance will provide specific information for Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams to further operationalize the eligibility criteria and will highlight assessment practices that assist IEP teams in making SLD eligibility decisions.

I wish you a good start to the school year.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Petska, Ph.D., Director
Special Education
Division for Learning Support: Equity and Advocacy

arh