

Idaho Specific Learning Disability (SLD) Eligibility Guidance Document

The Idaho State Department of Education, Division of Federal Programs - Special Education is providing the following guidance to support the field's work related to Specific Learning Disability (SLD) eligibility determination. This document includes and is to be used in conjunction with federal and state laws and regulations, including the Idaho Special Education Manual 2015, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA).

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SLD Eligibility Report Section 1: Insufficient Progress	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
A. Academic Area(s) of Concern	Be sure to check only identified areas of academic concern. Documentation of interventions and norm- referenced progress monitoring data must be provided in each area of concern.	 Check all areas of identified concern addressed on current IEP. If there is a new area of concern, documentation of interventions and norm-referenced progress monitoring data must be provided. 	Federal: 34 CFR 300.309(a)(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 following areas, when provided with learning experiences and instruction appropriate for the student's age or State-approved grade-level standards: (i) Oral Expression. (ii) Listening Comprehension. (iii) Written Expression. (iv) Basic Reading Skill. (v) Reading Fluency Skills. (vi) Reading Comprehension. (vii) Mathematics Calculation. (viii) Mathematics Problem Solving. State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4
			 Oral expression; Listening comprehension; Written expression; Basic reading skills; Reading comprehension; Reading fluency Mathematics calculation; or

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			8) Mathematics problem solving.
			Chapter 4 The student demonstrates low achievement in the area(s) of suspected disability listed above as evidenced by a norm-referenced, standardized achievement assessment. For culturally and linguistically diverse students, the preponderance of evidence must indicate low achievement.
B. Parent Input	Note the statement f their student's streng	rom parents regarding gths and needs.	Federal: 34 CFR 300.304(b)(1)
			Use a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information about the student, including information provided by the parent.
			State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4
			The parent/adult student is a member of the evaluation team and shall be provided an opportunity to provide input and participate in making team decisions.

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C. Background Information	• Relevant background information may include hearing/vision screening results, the number of schools attended, progress made, record of attendance, behavioral history, cultural background, who the student has lived with, any outside provider information, and any other relevant information.	 Update any new relevant background information. Information from independent or outside evaluations that are part of the student's current record should be represented here. 	Federal: 34 CFR 300.305(a)(1) (i) Review existing evaluation data on the student, including- (ii) Evaluations and information provided by the parents of the student; (iii) Current classroombased, local, or State assessments, and classroombased observations; and (iv) Observations by teachers and related services providers.
			Federal: 34 CFR 300.306(c)(1)(i)
			Draw upon information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, parent input, and teacher recommendations, as well as information about the student's physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior.
			Federal: 34 CFR 300.304(c)(4)
			The student is assessed in all areas related to the suspected disability

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			including, if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social/emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status, and motor abilities.
			State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4
			Gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information about the student, including information provided by the parent.
D. Core Curriculum is Effective	Assessment may incl curriculum- based may	ude ISAT, IRI, grade level	Federal: 34 CFR 300.306 (b)(i-iii)
Effective	 The Performance Berproficient score for the Determine the percellevel peers who have 	nchmark column is the hat assessment. ntage of those grade-	A student must not be determined to have a disability if the determinant factor is:
	specific disaggregate example EL, ethnic, e etc. • Use data provided by	Data: For eligibility he student to the most d group possible. For conomic disadvantaged, ISAT and EL Federal mation may be graphed	 (i) Lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction (as defined in section 1208(3) of the ESEA); (ii) Lack of appropriate instruction in math;
			or (iii) Limited English proficiency;

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			State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4
			A student cannot be identified as a student with a disability if the primary reason for such a decision is:
			a. lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act—phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, including oral reading skills and reading comprehension strategies; b. lack of appropriate instruction in math; or c. Limited English Proficiency.
			Chapter 4
			Data that helps establish that the core curriculum is effective for most students. The most recent whole grade performance data to verify appropriate instruction

SLD Eligibility Report Section 1: Insufficient Progress	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			in the area(s) of concern may include results from the standards-based assessment system. If the referred student belongs to a population of students whose performance is regularly disaggregated, whole grade data for the disaggregated group should be reviewed and considered.
E. Access to Core Instruction/ Curriculum	 Report the research-based instruction the student has had in reading and math and note any progress made by the student. Verify core (universal) instruction was provided regularly. Note student's attendance. Verify core instruction was delivered according to design and methodology by qualified personnel. Verify that differentiated instruction was provided. 		Federal: 34 CFR 300.306 (b)(1)(i)-(iii) A student must not be determined to have a disability if the determinant factor is: (i) Lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction (as defined in section 1208(3) of the ESEA); (ii) Lack of appropriate instruction in math; (iii) Limited English proficiency; State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 A student cannot be identified as a student
			identified as a student with a disability if the

SLD Eligibility Report Section 1: Insufficient Progress	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			primary reason for such a decision is:
			a) Lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act-phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, including oral reading skills and reading comprehension b) Lack of appropriate instruction in math; or c) Limited English Proficiency.
			Chapter 4
			Information documenting that before, or as part of, the referral process, the student was provided appropriate instruction in general education settings. Appropriate instruction includes consideration of both student specific information and whole group performance data. Student specific data regarding

SLD Eligibility Report Section 1: Insufficient Progress	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			appropriate instruction may include:
			(1) verification that core (universal) instruction was provided regularly; (2) data indicating that the student attended school regularly to receive instruction; (3) verification that core instruction was delivered according to its design and methodology by qualified personnel; and (4) verification that differentiated instruction in the core curriculum was provided.
F. Intervention Provided	Identify interventions implemented, as well as duration, frequency, and intensity of those interventions.	Special education interventions should be noted.	Federal: 34 CFR 300.309 (a)(2)(i) The student does not make sufficient progress to meet age or State-approved grade-level standards in one or more of the areas identified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section [oral expression; listening comprehension; written expression; basic reading skill; reading fluency skills; reading comprehension; mathematics calculation; and mathematics problem solving] when using a

SLD Eligibility Report Section 1: Insufficient Progress	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based interventions.
			State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4
			Evidence of insufficient progress in response to effective, evidence-based instruction and intervention indicates the student's performance level, and rate of improvement are significantly below that of grade level peers.
G. Progress Monitoring Data	This information must be graphed or	This information must be graphed	Federal: 34 CFR 300.309 (a)(2)(i)
	have a visual representation and include a written narrative, which must include all of the following information: aimline, trendline, decision points, student's rate of improvement, and national or local norms for grade	and include a written narrative, which must include all of the following information: aimline, trendline, decision points, student's rate of improvement, and national or local norms for grade level peers. • For students who	The student does not make sufficient progress to meet age or State-approved grade-level standards when using a process based on the student's response to scientific researched-based intervention. State: Idaho Special Education Manual
	level peers. • For students who are culturally	are culturally diverse or English Learners, progress	2016, Chapter 4 Required information must include data-
	diverse or English Learners, progress	must be compared against their	based documentation of student progress
	must be compared against their	subgroup's progress.	during instruction and intervention using
	subgroup's progress.		standardized, norm- referenced progress

SLD Eligibility Report Section 1: Insufficient Progress	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
	Include progress monitoring data from targeted interventions in the area(s) of concern (benchmark assessment only is not sufficient).	Include progress monitoring data from IEP goals.	monitoring measures in the area of disability. Chapter 4 For culturally and linguistically diverse students, the preponderance of evidence must indicate low achievement.
H. Observation of Academic Performance	 Observe the student in the general education classroom in the subject(s) related to the area(s) of concern. Describe how the academic area(s) of concern impact the student's performance in the classroom. Note specific behaviors related to the academic areas of concern including the student's reactions to learning and feedback from the general education teacher. Document the name and title of the observer and the site, date, and duration of the observation. 	 The student must be observed in each academic area of concern. This may include an observation in the special education classroom, but it must include an observation of the identified area of concern in the general education classroom. Reading and math may be observed in the general education science class or reading in another general education classroom. Schedule the observation with the general education teacher. Document the name and title of the observer and the site, date, and duration of the observation. 	Federal: 34 CFR 300.310 (b)(1) Use information from an observation in routine classroom instruction and monitoring of the student's performance that was done before the student was referred for an evaluation; or State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 A record of an observation of the student's academic performance and behavior in the student's learning environment (including the general classroom setting) has been conducted by an evaluation team member other than the student's general education teacher. The purpose of the observation is to document how the

SLD Eligibility Report Section 1: Insufficient Progress	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			area(s) of concern impact the student's performance in the classroom.

SLD Eligibility Report Section 2: Evidence of Low Achievement	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
Evidence of Low Achievement	Be sure to check identified areas of academic concerns.	 Check all areas addressed on current IEP. If there is a new area of concern, documentation needs to be provided. 	Federal: 34 CFR 300.309 (a)(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 following areas, when provided with learning experiences and instruction appropriate for the student's age or State-approved grade-level standards: (i) Oral Expression (ii) Listening Comprehension (iii) Written Expression (iv) Basic Reading Skills (v) Reading Fluency (vi) Reading Comprehension (vii) Mathematics Calculation (viii) Math Problem-Solving State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 The student does not make sufficient progress in response to

		effective, evidence-based instruction and intervention in one or more of the following areas: 1) Oral expression; 2) Listening comprehension; 3) Written expression; 4) Basic reading skills; 5) Reading comprehension;
		 Listening comprehension; Written expression; Basic reading skills; Reading
		6) Reading fluency; 7) Mathematics calculation; or 8) Mathematics problem solving.
	Provide a brief description of the assessment(s) along with the average range	
 and standard deviation Include a statement in examiner considers to valid. Also, include the information related to during testing. Students need to be subtests in each acade a norm-referenced, such in each acade a specific academic and discrepant, administed area to explain the sine. Provide date of assessment, subtest/standard score, percentage. 	indicating whether the che assessment to be esting observation to the student's behavior assessed with two demic area of concern on standardized ment. If subtest scores in area are significantly er a third subtest in that ignificant discrepancy assment, the name of a composite name, entile rank, and name	In conducting the evaluation, the public agency must: 1) Use a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information about the student, including information provided by the parent. 2) Not use any single measure or assessment as the sole criterion for determining an
•	assessment(s) along and standard deviatic include a statement examiner considers to valid. Also, include to information related to during testing. Students need to be subtests in each acade a norm-referenced, so achievement assessment, administrate at the explain the sign in provide date of assessment, subtest, standard score, perceivents.	assessment(s) along with the average range and standard deviation. Include a statement indicating whether the examiner considers the assessment to be valid. Also, include testing observation information related to the student's behavior during testing. Students need to be assessed with two subtests in each academic area of concern on a norm-referenced, standardized achievement assessment. If subtest scores in a specific academic area are significantly discrepant, administer a third subtest in that area to explain the significant discrepancy

SLD Eligibility Report Section 2: Evidence of Low Achievement	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			educational program for the student; and 3) Use technically sound instruments that may assess the relative contribution of the cognitive and behavioral factors, in addition to physical or developmental factors.
Interpretive Information			State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 The evaluation team will draw upon information from a variety of sources, such as norm-referenced, standardized tests, parent/adult student input, teacher input, physical condition, social or cultural background, adaptive behavior, and functional assessments to interpret evaluation data and determine eligibility.
			Chapter 4
			This evidence must indicate performance that is significantly below the mean on a cluster, composite, or two (2) or more subtest scores of a norm-referenced,

SLD Eligibility Report Section 2: Evidence of Low Achievement	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			standardized achievement assessment in the specific academic area(s) of suspected disability.

SLD Eligibility Report Section 3: Psychological Processing Skills	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
Name of Assessment Validity Statement and Testing Observations Processing Area and Scores Interpretive Information	 and standard deviation of the student's performation percession. Report the psychological procession. Report the psychological procession. Report the psychological procession. Deficits in basic psychological procession. Deficits in basic psychological procession. The student's performation. 	with the average range on. indicating whether the the assessment to be esting observation to the student's behavior gical processing areas of assessment(s), date of assessment(s), date of assessment and title of the logical processing olems in attending, eption, executive skills, working memory, long-crieval, assoning, processing failure to achieve ademic area(s) of and must rely on ments. In an an an assessment ern of strengths and of explain why and how and difficulties occur. In a chological processes	Federal: 34 CFR 300.309 (a)(2)(ii) The student exhibits a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, Stateapproved grade-level standards, or intellectual development, that is determined by the group to be relevant to the identification of a specific learning disability, using appropriate assessments. State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 The student demonstrates a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in psychological processing skills that impact learning.

SLD Eligibility Report Section 3: Psychological Processing Skills	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
	weaknesses and report appropriate sections processing skill(s) is I academic concern.		Chapter 4 An assessment of psychological processing skills is linked to the failure to achieve adequately in the academic area(s) of suspected disability and must rely on standardized assessments. These assessments must be conducted by a professional who is qualified to administer and interpret the assessment results. The student's performance on a psychological processing assessment demonstrates a pattern of strengths and weaknesses that help explain why and how the student's learning difficulties occur. Such tests may include measures of memory, phonological skills, processing speed as well as other measures which explicitly test psychological processing.

SLD Eligibility Report Section 4: Supplemental Assessments	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
Name of Assessment	Assessments may consist of behavior, language, speech, executive skills, attention,		Federal: 34 CFR 300.304(c)(4)
Validity Statement and Testing Observations	sensory profiles, fine depression or anxiety	/gross motor skills,	The student is assessed in all areas related to

SLD Eligibility Report Section 4:		_	Regulatory Language
Supplemental	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	(Federal & State)
Assessments	• Drovido a brief deser	intian of the assessment	the suspected
Assessment Scores Interpretive Information	 Provide a brief description of the assessment along with the average range and standard deviation. Include a statement indicating whether the examiner considers the assessment to be valid. Also, include testing observation information related to the student's behavior during testing Report area assessed date administered, the name of assessment, scores, and name and title of the examiner. Provide an interpretation of the test scores. Note if the student is below average, average, or above average with regard to the subtests administered. Explain how the scores impact the student's performance in the classroom. 		the suspected disability, including, if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status, and motor abilities; Federal: 34 CFR 300.305(a)(2) As part of an initial evaluation, if appropriate and as part of a reevaluation the team must review existing evaluation data, and based on that review, and input from the student's parents, identify what additional data, if any, are needed.
			State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 Assessment is integral to the evaluation process and includes the formal and informal processes of systematically observing, gathering, and recording credible information to help answer evaluation questions and make decisions. A test is one method of obtaining credible information within the assessment process. Tests may be

SLD Eligibility Report Section 4: Supplemental Assessments	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			standardized or non- standardized, criterion- referenced (e.g., curriculum-based measures) or norm- referenced, and usually elicit responses from students to situations, questions, or problems to be solved. Assessment data may also include observations, interviews, medical reports, data regarding the effects of general education accommodations and interventions, and other formal or informal data.

SLD Eligibility Report Section 5: Other Considerations	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
Considerations	the area(s) of suspect by any of the areas lies. Although we know the can influence or be a life, the team needs factor checked is PRI the student's acaden Summarize Team's darea checked. If the team determine these factors is PRIM	nat each of these factors part of each student's to consider whether any MARILY the reason for nic difficulties. iscussion related to any les that one or more of IARILY the reason for the difficulties, the student	Federal: 34 CFR 300.309 (3)(i-vi) The group determines that its findings under paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section are not primarily the result of (i) a visual, hearing, or motor disability; (ii) an intellectual disability; (iii) Emotional disturbance; (iv) Cultural factors; (v) Environmental or economic disadvantage; or

SLD Eligibility Report Section 5: Other Considerations	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			(vi) Limited English Proficiency.
			Federal: 34 CFR 300.306 (b) (1) (i-iii) A student must not be determined to be a student with a disability if the determinant factor for that determination is: (i) Lack of appropriate i nstruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction (as defined in section 1208(3) of the ESEA); (ii) Lack of appropriate instruction in math; (iii) Limited English proficiency.
			State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 The following criteria must be considered when evaluating the
			student's low achievement. The team must determine that the student's learning difficulty is not primarily the result of:
			 a) a visual, hearing, or motor impairment b) an Intellectual Disability c) an Emotional Disturbance

SLD Eligibility Report Section 5: Other Considerations	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			d) Environmental or economic disadvantage e) Cultural factors f) Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
			Chapter 4 A student cannot be identified as a student with a disability if the primary reason for such a decision is: a) lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act-phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, including oral reading skills and reading comprehension strategies; b) lack of appropriate instruction in math; or c) Limited English Proficiency.

SLD Eligibility Report Section 6: English Learner (EL)	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
A. Assessment	• Determination of the student's first language		Federal: 34 CFR
Documentation	can be determined b	y using formal and	300.304 (c)(1)(i)-(iii)

SLD Eligibility Report			Regulatory Language
Section 6: English Learner (EL)	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	(Federal & State)
B. Impact of English Learning	student's progress to i.e., same- culture, no similar history in Amevaluation team may surrounding districts Summarize assessme variety of informatio to provide informatio	DA Assessing Communication in e (ACCESS), or tc. t, teacher, and/or te, to determine the beaks most fluently. mpare and document the o that of similar peers, ear same age, with a erican school, etc. (The o need to access to find similar peers.) ent data in addition to a in from various sources on on the impact of the student's academic	Assessments and other evaluation materials used to assess a student under this part- (i) Are selected and administered so as not to be discriminatory on a racial or cultural basis; (ii) Are provided and administered in the student's native language or another mode of communication and in the form most likely to yield accurate information on what the student knows and can do academically, developmentally, and functionally, unless it is clearly not feasible to so provide or administer; (iii) Are used for the purposes for which the assessment or measures are valid and reliable. State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4
			Materials used to assess a student with
			Limited English
			Proficiency shall be selected and
			administered to ensure

SLD Eligibility Report Section 6: English Learner (EL)	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			that they measure the extent to which the student has a disability and needs special education, rather than solely measuring the student's English language skills.

SLD Eligibility Report Section 7: Summary of Evidence and Eligibility Determination	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
A. Evaluation Team Assessment Summary		ventions, classroom	Federal: 34 CFR 300.306 (c)(1)(i)-(ii) (i) Draw upon information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, parent input, and teacher recommendations, as well as information about the student's physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior; and (ii) Ensure that information obtained from all of these sources is documented and carefully considered. State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 Upon completion of the student's initial evaluation or reevaluation, the

SLD Eligibility Report Section 7: Summary of Evidence and Eligibility Determination	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			evaluation team will consider the findings and determine whether the student meets or continues to meet eligibility criteria found in Section 7 of this chapter. The evaluation team will draw upon information from a variety of sources, such as norm-referenced, standardized test, parent/adult student input teacher input, physical condition, social or cultural background, adaptive behavior, and functional assessments to interpret evaluation data and determine eligibility.
B. Adverse Impact/Adverse Effect	extent that the education significantly and cons	ected disability to the ational performance is sistently below the level preventing the student	Federal: 34 CFR 300.8(a) Student with a disability- (A)In general,The term 'child with a
C. Need for Specially Designed Instruction	Describe the instruct student to be able to	ion necessary for the access and progress in curriculum and meet	disability' means a child- (i) with an intellectual disability, hearing impairments (including deafness), speech or language impairments, visual impairments (including blindness), serious emotional disturbance (referred to in this part as 'emotional disturbance'), an

SLD Eligibility Report Section 7: Summary of Evidence and Eligibility Determination	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
			orthopedic impairment autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, a specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities, and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.
			State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 The disability adversely impacts the student's educational performance, and the student requires specially designed instruction.
D. Determination	 to receive special edu Each team member in whether the report in conclusion. If it does member's conclusion must submit a writte the member's conclusion. The team should use evidence standard in as this is rooted in a expertise and experise from examination and data. Providing a prewhich supports the processor. 	s not meet the Idaho ments under the learning Disability. The student is eligibility ucation services. The must indicate in writing effects the member's not reflect the learn member in statement presenting usions. The team member is a preponderance of determining eligibility high level of professional ence; it emerges directly id review of extensive ponderance of evidence, presence of a disability, if fect of the disability on	Federal: 34 CFER 300.311 (a) For a student suspected of having a specific learning disability, the documentation of the determination of eligibility, as required in Sec. 300.306(a)(2), must contain a statement of — (1) Whether the student has a specific learning disability; State: Idaho Special Education Manual 2016, Chapter 4 The evaluation team will consider the

SLD Eligibility Report Section 7: Summary of Evidence and Eligibility Determination	Initial Evaluation	Reassessment	Regulatory Language (Federal & State)
	performance and des need for specially de		findings and determine whether the student meets or continues to meet eligibility criteria.
			Chapter 4 In the case of Specific Learning Disability eligibility determination, certification in writing that the report reflects each member's conclusions (agreement), and in the case of team member disagreement with the conclusions, a written statement shall be attached to the eligibility report presenting the dissenting team member's conclusions.