



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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August 30, 2016

**TO:** Directors, Exceptional Children Programs  
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

**FROM:** William J. Hussey, Director **WJH**  
Exceptional Children Division

**RE:** **Intent to Implement**  
**Specific Learning Disabilities – Addendum to NC Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities**

On February 4, 2016, the State Board of Education approved the policy for Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) – Addendum to NC *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*. The addendum can be found on the Exceptional Children Division website at <http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-disabilities>.

Local education agencies (LEAs) may adopt the new *Policies* prior to July 1, 2020, by completing the Intent to Implement document. This document notifies the NC Department of Public Instruction that LEAs will no longer use the discrepancy method, the alternative to discrepancy analysis or the use of a pattern of strengths and weaknesses for determining eligibility for students with Specific Learning Disabilities and will comply with the new SLD policy.

It is strongly suggested that LEAs complete the Self-Assessment of MTSS (SAM) as an implementation fidelity measure and have a rating of “initially implementing” or “fully implementing” across all of the six critical components/domains measured prior to submitting an Intent to Implement. The SAM measures school-level implementation of MTSS. The purpose of administration is to help school-level and district-level personnel identify and prioritize implementation steps. For information regarding the SAM, contact Amy Jablonski, Director of Integrated Academic and Behavior Systems, at [amy.jablonski@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:amy.jablonski@dpi.nc.gov).

For additional information, you may contact Lynne Loeser, Consultant for Learning Disabilities, at [lynne.loeser@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lynne.loeser@dpi.nc.gov); or Carol Ann Hudgens, Section Chief for Policy, Monitoring and Audit, at [carolann.hudgens@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:carolann.hudgens@dpi.nc.gov).

WJH/DM/CAH/II

## EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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