



Coordinating Support Services for English Language Learners with Special Needs

Why go this route?

Because the numbers of English Language Learners (ELLs) have increased by 105% since 1990, there are likely to be greater numbers of these students referred and/or in need of special education programs and services. Coordinating services will:

- Ensure that ELLs are appropriately referred and assessed in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner
- Comply with IDEA, OCR and ESEA
- Design and implement culturally and linguistically appropriate educational plans
- Evaluate need for program and service modifications to provide for appropriate student/family support

You'll know you've arrived when...

- Districts and their individual schools have a specific plan for pre-referral, identification, assessment, educational planning and implementation tailored to the needs of ELLs.
- All documents and test results are communicated to the student, parents and/or family in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.
- Individualized education programs, when needed, include coordination of all support programs and services designed to meet the student's unique needs.
- Appropriate progress indicators include measures of special education goals, English language proficiency and attainment of grade level content expectations.
- ELLs with special needs are serviced in a least restrictive environment.

Construction Zone

- Evaluate current special education procedures.
- Identify highly qualified staff.
- Identify bilingual/ESL trained personnel relating to the district's linguistic and cultural diversity.

It's about TIME

- Planning and implementing program evaluation and professional development takes time.
- The pre-referral and Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT) may take longer when two languages are involved.
- Planning the coordination of staff may require additional time and effort.

Potential COSTS


- Additional staff and new assessment instruments may be needed.
- Translation/interpreter services may be needed.
- Cost for professional development for special education and ESL/bilingual staff.




The Process

*A step-by-step guide
to coordinating support
services for English
Language Learners with
special needs.*

*For detailed explanation
of the process, see
the process detail.*

NOTE: Steps marked with a  are accompanied by one or more inserts, included in this packet.

Coordinate support services for English Language Learners with special needs (See Inserts)

- 1** The pre-referral process must include those persons and procedures necessary to rule out second language acquisition, cultural differences, lack of or interrupted schooling and ineffective instructional environment as the cause for the specific educational problem(s) being faced by the student. (INSERTS A and B for Step 1)
 - 2** If the educational issues facing the student are not resolved with pre-referral interventions, insure that all necessary communication with the family is culturally sensitive and linguistically comprehensible.
 - 3** The multidisciplinary evaluation team (MET) process must be adjusted to insure that:
 - a.** The assessment tools are educationally, culturally and linguistically appropriate.
 - b.** The student is evaluated in both English (when feasible) and in his/her native language.
 - c.** If using a translator, insure that the person is adequately trained and that the assessment results are valid, reliable and interpreted properly.
 - d.** The socio-cultural factors impacting the student's current educational performance are clearly understood.
 - e.** The MET results are accurate and are presented to the family, student and team in an understandable manner.(INSERT for Step 3)
 - 4** The Individualized Education Program (IEP), if necessary, is designed with goals and support services that reflect the language of instruction. Coordination of services with ESL/bilingual staff must be appropriately planned. (INSERT for Step 4)
 - 5** Insure that the student's plan for learning meets his/her needs and is not determined by the current availability of programs and services.
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Getting more mileage from coordinating support services for English Language Learners with special needs

How coordinating support services for English Language Learners with special needs benefits your school in regard to the following initiatives:

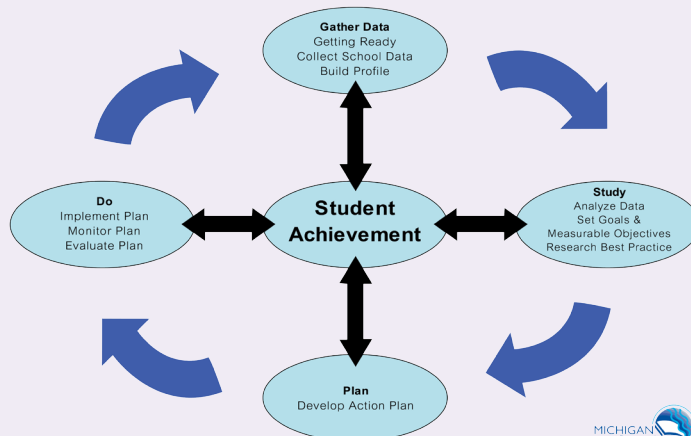
Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

- Districts are held accountable for continuous improvement in meeting English language proficiency standards as well as state academic standards.
- Parental choice and meaningful involvement are required.
- Flexibility of funding under various grant programs is provided so that all needed support for student learning can be accessed.

State Accreditation System

- Instructional planning, delivery, and assessment must be aligned to standards, meet the needs of students, and communicated to parents.

Michigan Continuous School Improvement Process (Mi-CSI) Michigan School Improvement Framework



Data relating to English Language Learners must be disaggregated and strategies must be included in all aspects of the continuous school improvement process.



Resources

Books, Articles, Websites

The Bilingual Special Education Interface, 3rd ed.

L. Baca & H. Cervantes. Merrill
Publishing

Assessment and Instruction of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students with or At-risk of Learning Problems

V. Gonzalez, R. Brusca-Vega, T. Yawkey.
Allyn & Bacon, 1997.

“Differentiating Curriculum and Instruction for ELLs with Special Needs”

John J. Hoover, Special Education
Leadership and Quality Teacher Initiative,
BUENO Center, School of Education,
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
john.hoover@colorado.edu

“Assessment of Language”

Dr. Yvonne S. Freeman & Dr. David
E. Freeman. Teaching: Principles for
Success. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann,
1998.

“Schools and Culturally Diverse Exceptional Learners”

Alba Ortiz; Bruce Ramirez, *ERIC
Clearinghouse on Handicapped and
Gifted Children*, 1988.

“Assessing Bilingual Students for Placement and Instruction”

Carol Ascher, *ERIC/CUE Digest No.65*, ERIC
Clearinghouse on Urban Education.

“To Reform or Not to Reform: Untangling the Web of Diversity, Deficit and Disability”

Barrera (1995, Summer). *New York State
Association for Bilingual Education
Journal*, 10, 54-56.

Associations

Council for Exceptional
Children (CEC)
www.cec.sped.org

National Association
for Bilingual Education (NABE)
www.nabe.org

Teachers of English to Speakers
of Other Languages (TESOL)
www.tesol.org

Teaching Diverse Learners
www.tdl@alliance.brown.edu

People

Leonard Baca, Buena Vista
University of Colorado, Boulder

Catherine Collier,
www.crosscultured.com

Alba Ortiz, The University of
Texas, Austin

For more information, contact:

Michigan Department of Education

Office of Education
Improvement and Innovation
517-241-3147

School Improvement Unit
517-373-8480

Curriculum and Instruction Unit
517-241-4285

Office of Assessment
and Accountability
517-373-0048

Office of Early Childhood
and Family Services
517-241-3592

Office of Field Services
517-373-3921

Special Populations Unit
517-373-6066

Office of Professional Preparation
and Teacher Certification
517-373-6505

Office of Special Education
and Early Intervention Services
517-373-9433

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www.michigan.gov/mde