

ALL PRINCIPALS/AP'S: Change in Eligibility Criteria for Programs for Students with Speech and Language Impairments

Category:

Audience: All Principals/APs

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

Attachment(s): [Memo SL eligibility criteria correction 3.pdf](#)
[Memo SL eligibility criteria correction attachment.pdf](#)

To inform administrators of a change in eligibility criteria for Special Programs for Students who are Speech and Language Impaired

This information reflects the revision to Rule 6A-6.03012(2)(a)2, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Special Programs for Students who are Speech and Language Impaired. This change reflects researched evidence related to a complaint involving variance across the state in school districts' interpretation of the language scores on standardized tests as cited in the eligibility criteria for a language disorder for children ages five and above.

The Florida Department of Education is providing the following guidance to school districts regarding the change in eligibility criteria:

- As a corrective action to resolve the complaint and beginning **September 28th, 2007** districts must cease the use of "one and one half standard deviations below the mean" when determining eligibility for a language disorder for children ages five and above.
 - Districts must begin determining eligibility for this population using "more than one standard deviation."
 - As part of this guidance, each district's Policies and Procedures (SP&P) must be amended.
 - The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Florida Department of Education, does not require School Board approval of this amendment.
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