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# PGCPS

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## Specific Learning Disability Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletin

February 28, 2017

Department of Special Education

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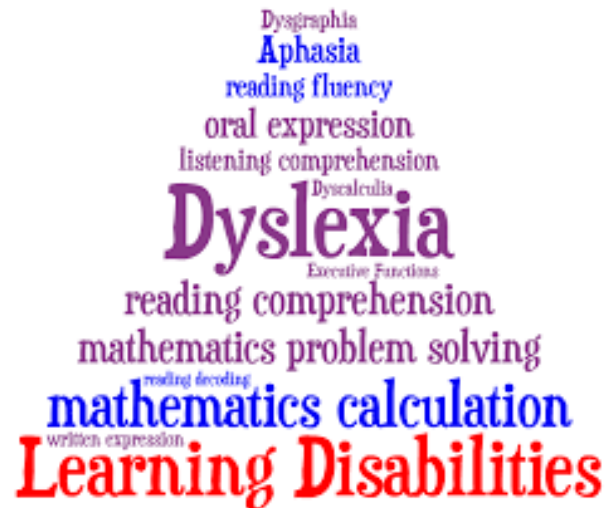
# SECAC Meeting



# Specific Learning Disability



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- Governor's Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program in Maryland in May 2015.
- New MSDE Technical Assistance Bulletin Released November 7, 2016.
- Final Governor's Task Force Report Released on December 31, 2016.



The TA Bulletin focuses on specific learning disability in the areas of Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and Dysgraphia

- Definitions
- Identification guidelines
- IEP or 504
- Instructional Implications

	<b>Technical Assistance Bulletin</b> MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES					
	Birth-4	Birth-K	Three-5	Three-21	Birth-21	
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**SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY  
& SUPPLEMENT**  
*(Focus On: Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, and Dysgraphia)*

**Issued:** November 7, 2016

Specific learning disability (SLD) is one of the 13 categories of disability recognized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400; 34 CFR Part 300. SLD is the only disability category for which the IDEA establishes special evaluation procedures in addition to the general evaluation procedures that are used for all students with disabilities. In order to assist Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams with evaluation of students, this Technical Assistance Bulletin provides a brief overview of the relevant evaluation procedures, as well as illustrative examples of academic difficulties that may form the basis of a SLD determination if a student meets all other criteria under the IDEA and requires the provision of specially designed instruction. In addition, a supplement, *Focus On Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, and Dysgraphia*, is included to highlight that, where appropriate, the IEP team may find it helpful to include information about a specific condition underlying a student's disability.

## 1. What is a specific learning disability?

By definition, specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself



# **Specific Learning Disability**

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The IEP team may determine that a student has a SLD if the student does not achieve adequately for the student's age or meet State-approved grade level standards when provided with learning experiences appropriate for the student's age and ability levels in one or more of the following areas:

- |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) oral expression         | 5) reading comprehension          |
| 2) listening comprehension | 6) written expression             |
| 3) basic reading skills    | 7) mathematics calculation        |
| 4) reading fluency skills  | 8) mathematics problem<br>solving |



# PGCPS Department of Special Education Timeline and Activities-November 2016

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**PGCPS**

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- MSDE Release of TA Bulletin and Supplement
- Department of Special Education Central Office Committee Formed and Lead by:
  - Mary Bell, Coordinating Supervisor
  - Tameka Wright, Supervisor of Elementary Programs
  - Camille Johnson, Assistant Supervisor of Assessment and Accountability



# PGCPS Department of Special Education Timeline and Activities-December 2016

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**PGCPS**

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- Central Office Committee Expanded to Include:
  - Dr. Flo Foreman, Supervisor Psychological Services
  - Dr. Mark Resnick, School Psychologist Coordinator
  - India Parson, Instructional Specialist, SLP
- During the Special Education Chairs Meeting, the TA Bulletin was reviewed.





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# **PGCPS Department of Special Education Timeline and Activities-January 2017**

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## **Committee Expanded to Include:**

### **Reading Supervisors**

Altramez McQuaige, Elementary RELA Supervisor

Olga Pabon, Middle School RELA Supervisor

Cory Carter, Secondary RELA Supervisor

### **Support Programs and Services Leadership Staff**

Deborah Anzelone, Supervisor Support Programs and Services

Dana Trussell, SLP Instructional Specialist

Heather Kafele, SLP Pre School Instructional Specialist

Dorothea Copeland, OT Instructional Specialist

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

Judith Russ, Elementary Math Supervisor

Lisa Green, Elementary Math Instructional Specialist

Michelle Dyson, Middle School Math Specialist

Stephanie McLeod, Secondary Math Specialist



# PGCPS Department of Special Education Timeline and Activities-February 2017

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## PGCPS

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- MSDE Technical Assistance Bulletin and Expectations were shared with Department of Special Education and Student Services Leadership Staff.
- SECAC informed of PGCPS timeline and activities.
- Department of Special Education Leadership Team provided a list of research-based interventions that are currently being used in PGPCS. This list provided the following components:
  - Grade-level;
  - State standards addressed;
  - Computer access status;
  - Recommended time of day for administering the intervention;
  - Recommended group size; and
  - Number of minutes and frequency for administration





# PGCPS Department of Special Education Timeline and Activities- March 2017

## PGCPS

- Department of Special Education Leadership Team will review the training module and provide feedback.
- Central Office Committee will review all feedback and finalize training module.
- Associate Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services will complete final review.
- Training Module will be shared with MSDE for review and feedback.





# PGCPS Department of Special Education Timeline and Activities- April-May 2017

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## PGCPS

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- Convene an Expert Panel to Review PGCPS Interventions and Provide Recommendations
- Provide Extensive Training for the following PGCPS Staff:
  - School Psychologist
  - Speech and Language Pathologists
  - Occupational Therapists
  - Assistive Technology
  - Reading Teachers and Specialists
  - Mathematics Teachers and Specialists
  - Special Education Instructional Specialists





# PGCPS Department of Special Education Timeline and Activities- August and September 2017

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## PGCPS

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- PGCPS Department of Student Services will train staff members on the revised Student Instructional Team (SIT), Student Support Team (SST) and the Response to Intervention processes.
- Provide Training to the following PGCPS Staff:
  - Principals and Assistant Principals
  - Special Educator Chairs and Coordinators
  - General and Special Education Teachers
  - Other Staff Members who were not trained in the April-May timeline.





# **PGCPS Commitment**

The needs of all students with Specific Learning Disabilities will be met through:

1. Structured Literacy Instructional Interventions
2. Instructional approaches utilizing knowledge of student strengths and weaknesses.
3. Accommodations and Modifications carefully chosen to address each student's disability.

# Questions

