

Final Report On the Specific Learning Disabilities Ad Hoc Task Force

The links on the SLD page contain the proposed rule based on changes suggested from the Specific Learning Disabilities Task Force meetings along with a question and answer document about the key elements of the rule. The Specific Learning Disabilities Ad Hoc Task Force meetings were held on May 14, June 26, August 3 and October 10, 2009 in Madison and Wisconsin Dells. The task force included representatives from various professional organizations, along with administrators, teachers, CESA staff, parent representatives and IHE representatives. These meetings were supported by DPI staff members: Troy Couillard, Vaunce Ashby and John Humphries. A private facilitator was also contracted, William Houlihan. He attended three of the four meetings.

Mr. Houlihan, at the first meeting, clarified the task force's purpose, defined "consensus" in respect to this work, and discussed how disagreements would be addressed. That information was followed by the task force developing guiding principles that would be used to frame the discussions around the language. DPI staff then presented the background of SLD, its relationship to IDEA 2004 and RtI in Wisconsin. The draft language was presented to the task force; the presentation included the feedback from the spring 2007 hearings along with research that was completed immediately after those hearings.

The remainder of the meetings was formatted to allow the task force members to have input, ask questions and offer suggestions for the material that was presented to them. In most instances, the documents with DPI's responses were forwarded to the task force members several days prior to the next meeting. The third and fourth meetings' agenda were developed to effectively respond to stakeholder's concerns that were identified at the previous meeting.