

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP THE LD SPECIALIST?

Keep communication lines open with child's teachers through meeting attendance, written and verbal communications.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Parent Information Center

768 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610
Phone: 508-799-30

Special Education Department

20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01608
Phone: 508-799-3056



WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME?

- Ask student about his/her school day.
- Oversee the completion of homework.
- Make requests to teacher, or ask questions of teacher, in writing.
- Make plans to attend all school meetings and programs relating to your child.
- Read, Read, Read to your child at home and allow child to read to you.

RELIABLE WEBSITES ON SLD:

These are websites designed to assist parents and teachers of students with SLD.

1. <http://www.ldonline.org>
2. <http://www.lidaamerica.org>
3. <http://www.schwablearning.org>

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Learning Disabilities Department (LD)



MISSION STATEMENT:

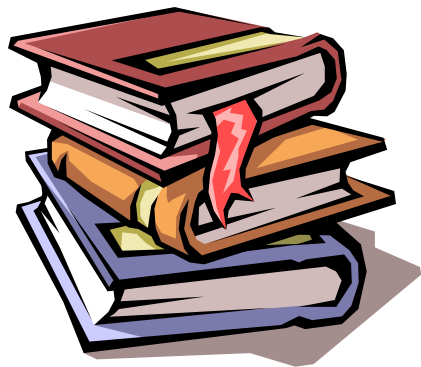
The Learning Disabilities Department of the Worcester Public Schools strives to enhance each student's ability to access the curriculum, improve skills, and apply learned strategies in an effort to develop a life-long independent learner.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The LD Specialist provides services to students who have been identified with a specific learning disability through the Team Process. These SLD's may be in the areas of reading, math, written language, organization, and/or test taking strategies. The LD Specialist works cooperatively with teachers and parents to insure that each student can access the WPS curriculum and meet the state curriculum frameworks.

HOW DO THE LD TEACHERS PROVIDE SERVICES TO SLD STUDENTS IN THE WPS?

The LD Specialist utilizes a pullout model to work with students individually and/or in small groups one to two times weekly. Sessions are scheduled with the student's classroom teacher(s). The LD Specialist utilizes specialized training in programs designed to meet the needs of SLD students as directed by the Individualized Education Plan in reading, math, written language, comprehension, and/or organizational skills.



DEFINITION OF SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY (SLD)

Children with learning disabilities have one or more of their information processing systems, which do not work efficiently. This makes it more difficult to acquire academic skills. LD is a broad term. There are many different kinds of learning disabilities, but most often they fall into three broad categories: reading disabilities, written language disabilities, and math disabilities.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A STUDENT WITH SLD

Grades K to 4: Slow to learn the connection between letters and sounds, Confuses basic words (run, eat, want), Makes consistent reading & spelling errors, Transposes number sequences & confuses arithmetic signs, Slow to remember facts, Slow to learn new skills, Relies heavily on memorization, Trouble learning about time.

Grades 5 to 8: Reverses letter sequences, Slow to learn spelling strategies, Avoids reading aloud, Trouble with word problems, Difficulty with handwriting, Slow or poor recall of facts, Trouble understanding body language & facial expressions.

High School Students & Adults: Continues to spell incorrectly, Frequently spells the same word differently in a single piece of writing, Avoids reading & writing tasks, Trouble summarizing, Weak memory skills, Works slowly, Poor grasp of abstract concepts, Misreads information.

ROLE OF LD SPECIALIST FROM REFERRAL PROCESS TO TEAM MEETINGS:

- Screening students
- Informal & formal classroom observations
- Review of Cumulative Folder, work samples, & MCAS results
- Consult with teachers and evaluation staff
- Formal & Informal assessment of student for SLD

TEACHER TRAINING REQUIRED FOR LD TEACHERS

- Minimum of a BA in Special Education
- Massachusetts licensure in Moderate Special Needs
- Training or certification in the implementation of a multi-sensory structured language program