

## **Specific Learning Disability (SLD)**

### **Per MDE-OSE May 2010 Memorandum:**

On or before September 1, 2010, each local educational agency (LEA) and public school academy (PSA) must publicly post on their web site, or make public through other means, the process or combination of processes which will be used by the LEA or PSA to determine the existence of a SLD. (§ 300.307(b) and § 300.600(d)(2)).

For determination of a SLD, a Response to Intervention (RTI) analysis is used for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, which includes: Oral Expression, Listening Comprehension, Written Expression, Reading Comprehension, Reading Fluency, Math Calculation, and Math Problem Solving.

It is noted that regardless of the process used, all schools must follow all of the regulatory requirements in the IDEA, the MARSE, and Michigan laws, policies and procedures for special education.

### **What is a Specific Learning Disability (SLD)?**

A Specific Learning Disability is “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 in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia that adversely affects a student’s educational performance. A SLD does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities; mental retardation; emotional disturbance; or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.” (34 CFR 300.8(c)(10)).

### **What is Response to Intervention (RTI)**

RTI is the practice of providing high-quality instruction and intervention matched to a student’s needs, analyzing the student’s rate of improvement over time and their performance discrepancy to determine if they require specialized instruction and, in turn, are eligible for special education services as a student with a Specific Learning Disability.