



Mark Uppena, Principal
Lancaster Middle /High

Leah Whitford, Principal
Winskill Elementary

925 West Maple Street
Lancaster, WI 53813

(608) 723-2175
(608) 723-6397 (fax)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

“Wisconsin’s rule for identifying students with specific learning disabilities (SLD) has changed. Wisconsin’s SLD eligibility rule was revised effective December 1, 2010. Before an IEP team can determine a student has a SLD, it must document the student, after intensive intervention, demonstrates inadequate achievement and insufficient progress in one or more of the following areas: oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, basic reading skill, reading fluency skills, reading comprehension, mathematics calculation, and mathematics problem solving . The IEP team may not identify a student as having SLD if the student’s achievement problems are primarily due to one or more exclusionary factors. If the SLD criteria are met, the IEP team goes on to determine whether the student needs special education (see PI 11.35).” Taken from the DPI website.

This letter is to notify you that **beginning on December 1, 2013 initial SLD evaluations** at Lancaster Community Schools will begin using information from a student’s response to intensive, scientific research based or evidence based interventions when making special education eligibility decisions.

- Though this is change, this practice allows the district to be proactive.
- When a student is struggling, the new practice allows for interventions to begin immediately rather than wait for the achievement gap to widen before the student may receive academic assistance.
- Through the “intervention process”, the district will be better positioned to meet the needs of **all** of its students.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please refer to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction webpage at http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_ld or contact Katherine Strong, Director of Special Education at 608-547-9882.

Sincerely,
Katherine Strong
Dir. Sp. Ed.