

# Determination of a Specific Learning Disability

The Academy uses the pattern of strengths and weaknesses model for the determination of a specific learning disability in the following areas:

- Basic Reading
- Reading Comprehension
- Reading Fluency
- Math Calculation
- Math Problem Solving
- Written Expression
- Listening Comprehension
- Oral Expression

The academy looks at the following 6 factors when determining whether a student has a Specific Learning Disability:

- 1.) Data demonstrating inadequate achievement relative to age/state approved grade-level standards.
- 2.) Insufficient progress to meet age/state approved standards when using a scientific research-based intervention.
- 3.) Data demonstrating the pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both relative to age/state approved grade-level standards or intellectual development (strength= at or above 30th percentile and on level with their peers. Weakness= At or below the 9th percentile and significantly below their same age peers). A student must demonstrate 4 areas of weakness and 3 areas of strength to be eligible for special education services as a student with a Specific Learning Disability.
- 4.) Data demonstrating that the underachievement is not primarily the result of other impairments, cultural, environmental, or economic factors
- 5.) Data demonstrating that prior to/as part of the referral process, the student was provided appropriate instruction by qualified personnel.
- 6.) Data that the student was observed in the learning environment to document academic performance and behavior in the area(s) of difficulty.

## **Exclusionary Factors (The disability cannot be due to the following factors):**

- 1.) Lack of Instruction in the Essential Components of Reading and Math
- 2.) Limited English Proficiency
- 3.) Cognitive Impairment
- 4.) Emotional Impairment
- 5.) Vision, hearing, or motor impairments
- 6.) Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 7.) Environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantages including
  - a.) Lack of opportunity
  - b.) Motivational factors
  - c.) Situational trauma
  - d.) Attendance