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

A strength is when a student:

1.) Scores at or above the 25th percentile on a norm-referenced assessment, CBM screening, norm referenced assessment, and curriculum assessments.
2.) Receives a 3 or 4 on the M-STEP
3.) Receives a grade of A or B on their report card
4.) Receives a score of 80% or higher on the classroom assessment
5.) Meets current grade level expectations in comparison to their same age peers

A weakness is when a student:

1.) Scores at or below the 9th percentile on a criterion referenced or norm-referenced assessment
2.) Scores at or below the 9th percentile or is in the “deficit/at-risk” range
3.) Receives a 1 or 2 on the M-STEP
4.) Scores at or below 70% on classroom assessments
5.) Receives a grade of D or E on their report card
6.) Performs below average in comparison to their same age peers (at or below the 9th percentile)
7.) Has 4 consecutive data points below the aimline

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

1.) Limited English Proficiency
2.) Cognitive Impairment
3.) Emotional Impairment
4.) Vision, hearing, or motor impairments
5.) Autism Spectrum Disorder
6.) Environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage