

7. Who should be a member of the SLD referral team? What is the role of the reading teacher/reading specialist?

Answer: Both the federal law and the WI SLD Rule define members of the IEP team by their role rather than their title. For example, the WI rule requires that the team includes: "A licensed person who has implemented the SRBIs with the student; and A licensed person qualified to conduct individual diagnostic evaluations. [Wis. Admin. Code §§ PI 11.36(6)(d)]" Often, the Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist will appropriately fill one or both of these roles. The federal law further includes the "remedial reading teacher" as an example of someone who can "conduct individual diagnostic examinations of children." Licensing as a reading teacher or reading specialist requires knowledge in these areas.

Evidence:

SRBIs must be provided by appropriately licensed staff. At the elementary level, this generally means classroom teachers whose certifications include the content area in question (for example, a Middle Childhood-Early Adolescence Regular Education license (72-777) includes both reading and mathematics instruction). Teachers providing reading interventions for multiple class periods per day must have a Reading Teacher (316) license. See <http://tepd.l.dpi.wi.gov/licensing/licenseand-assignment/reading> for more information on requirements to teach reading. At the secondary level, only a teacher licensed in the corresponding content area should be delivering interventions in that area. Because most content area certifications at the secondary level do not include reading instruction, highly qualified individuals providing reading SRBIs will likely hold a Reading Teacher license. [WI SLD FAQ](#), WI Dept. of Public Instruction Updated January 26, 2015, p. 15

Federal Law

"The determination of whether a child suspected of having a specific learning disability is a child with a disability as defined in 34 CFR 300.8, must be made by the child's parents and a team of qualified professionals, which must include:

- The child's regular teacher; or if the child does not have a regular teacher, a regular classroom teacher qualified to teach a child of his or her age; or for a child of less than school age, an individual qualified by the State educational agency (SEA) to teach a child of his or her age; and
- At least one person qualified to conduct individual diagnostic examinations of children, such as a school psychologist, speech-language pathologist, or remedial reading teacher.
- [34 CFR 300.308] [20 U.S.C. 1221e-3; 1401(30); 1414(b)(6)]"

(6) Reading teacher. Any person who has a specific assignment to teach reading shall hold a reading teacher license. A reading teacher license to teach at the early childhood through adolescence level shall be issued to an applicant who has completed an approved program and

who has received the institutional endorsement for the reading teacher license and who meets all of the following requirements:

(a) Eligibility to hold a Wisconsin license to teach or completion of an approved teacher education program.

(b) Two years of successful regular classroom teaching experience.

(c) Proficiency in the teaching of reading that includes a clinical program in teaching reading in all of the following:

1. Developmental reading for pupils in the early childhood through adolescent level.
2. Assessment and instructional techniques for readers with special needs.
3. Language development.
4. Learning disabilities.
5. Content area reading.
6. Literature for children or adolescents.

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