

Supporting ELL with Special Needs

This playbook describes how to effectively support English Language Learners (ELL) who also require special education services. It provides a step-by-step guide for educators and support staff to address the dual challenges faced by these students.

Step 1: **Identification**

Identify ELL students who may also require special education services. Look for indicators such as difficulties in both language acquisition and general learning.

Step 2: **Assessment**

Conduct comprehensive assessments using bilingual and culturally responsive tools to distinguish between language acquisition difficulties and other learning challenges.

Step 3: **Planning**

Develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan that addresses both language learning needs and special education services, involving educators, specialists, and family members.

Step 4: **Collaboration**

Foster a collaborative approach by assembling a team of ELL specialists, special education teachers, and therapists who work together to support the student's unique needs.

Step 5: Instruction

Implement specialized instruction that integrates language development with accommodations and modifications appropriate for the student's special needs.

Step 6: Monitoring

Regularly monitor the student's progress in both language acquisition and their special education goals, adjusting the interventions as necessary.

Step 7: Family Engagement

Maintain ongoing communication with the student's family, sharing progress and collaborating on strategies to support learning at home.

General Notes

Cultural Sensitivity

Ensure that all steps are undertaken with cultural sensitivity and an understanding of the student's background and experiences.

Legal Compliance

Comply with all legal requirements for providing services to ELL students and those with special needs, including federal, state, and local regulations.

Professional Development

Provide professional development opportunities for staff to enhance their skills in working with ELL students with special needs.

