STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP NETWORKS

Are parents included in the statewide leadership networks? If so, how do parents join the network?

The Statewide Leadership Networks refers to the lead Education Service Center (ESC) or Institute of Higher Learning (IHE) and the representatives at each ESC for each network. It is not something that is able to be joined. However, each network will have resources for parents to access and parents can contact network representatives at their local ESC to ask questions or give input about the networks.

What professional organizations, advocacy groups, or other stakeholder groups are partnering with TEA for the Statewide Leadership Networks?

Grantees or vendors listed the organizations that they chose to partner with in their proposals. The decision regarding who to partner with is left to the grantee or vendors.

What is the status of Network 10: Multiple Exceptionalities and Multiple Needs?

Negotiations are ongoing. Once a grantee has been chosen, the TEA will reveal the name of the organization.

Network 10: What guidance is available now regarding evaluating students suspected of being gifted AND having a SLD? What guidance is "in the works"? Likewise, what guidance is available for determining eligibility for special education (particularly the SLD category) when a student is suspected of being gifted AND is identified as having a disorder such as ADHD and/or LDs such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia?

Network 10 is still in the negotiation process, but TEA has the Equity in GT website: http://www.gtequity.org/index.php which has a section devoted to identification and assessment of 2E students: http://www.gtequity.org/twice/school/assessment-and-identification.php

There is no specific statewide guidance regarding the evaluation process for students with specific disabilities who may also be GT. However, the GT Equity site notes that **district guidelines** should incorporate flexible gifted/talented (G/T) and special education (SE) assessment and identification procedures that should be individualized for each student.

There is a general flowchart about the identification of 2E students: http://www.gtequity.org/twice/docs/AssessmentandIdentificationFlowchart.pdf

What guidance is "in the works"?

Network 10 is charged with developing evidence-based guidance on the evaluation process for students with disabilities who are also GT and/or EL.

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Likewise, what guidance is available for determining eligibility for special education (particularly the SLD category) when a student is suspected of being gifted AND is identified as having a disorders such as ADHD and/or LDs such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia?

Only the information mentioned above (GT Equity website).

Describe the partnerships in place between state, regional, and local levels concerned with adequate identification and programming for twice exceptional students.

State, regional & local educators collaborate with the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented https://www.txgifted.org/ which holds a Gifted Plus (2E) conference https://www.txgifted.org/content.asp?contentid=143

What action plan does TEA have to improve inclusive education practices within the state? We know that all kids learn better in inclusive environments, yet there are school districts that still have special education campuses.

Currently, we have the Progress in the General Curriculum network that has many resources on their website regarding inclusive practices. This work will also continue in the new Inclusive Services and Practices for Improved Student Outcomes network that will begin in the 19-20 school year.

I submitted two Special Education related questions to TEA at the following email address this past fall: Specialeducation@tea.texas.gov. I never received a response. How can I contact TEA with questions related to special education and receive a response?

We apologize for not getting a response sooner, we are working to ensure that all responses are answered in a timely manner. If you do not receive a response, please feel free to call our main number (512) 463-9414.

When will the implementation of the strategic plan begin? How can parents report current violations?

The strategic plan has already started. TEA has submitted information to OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs) about progress we have already made. Additional information can be found on the Texas SPED website https://tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED/. If you feel there has been any violation in your campus or district, please submit a complaint to TEA https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Contact_Us/Complaints/Complaints/.

STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP NETWORKS

Excellent materials have been developed by ESC 20 and TEA on access to the general curriculum. Will this project and activities to train more educators on these resources continue?

All materials from existing networks will be subject to a review process that will involve TEA approval and formatting updates. Resources will be available for the new networks by September 30, 2019.

What is TEA doing to ensure that they are receiving parent feedback during the implementation of the Special Education Strategic Plan?

TEA is developing an effective, state-level stakeholder engagement system that will lead to positive outcomes for students with disabilities. To successfully develop and implement support and services for those students, it is critical to have the active engagement of all stakeholders – students, families, educators, and communities. To broaden the reach of those who would like to be involved, both in-person and virtual opportunities to participate will be offered. There will also be opportunities for communities across the state to give their opinions and share their perspectives on special education topics and issues To find more information please visit our website https://tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED/ and see our Stakeholder Engagement Plan. TEA is also working to create a comprehensive list of groups who work to improve services for students with disabilities. To have your group listed in this registry, please send an email including your group's name, target population, relevant funding sources, and mission to TexasSPED@TEA.texas.gov.