

To: Superintendent Addressed

From: Rodney Watson, PhD

Date: October 8, 2025

Re: Texas Education Agency Statewide Child Find and Early to Exit IEP Supports Grant

Region 4 Education Service Center is the statewide lead for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) statewide Child Find and Early to Exit IEP Supports grant. Below is an overview of tools, supports, and highlighted resources that have been developed and are available to districts and charters at **zero cost**.

TEA Newsletter: [Back to School Updates Newsletter](#) has important special education updates based on legislation passed by the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session.

Online Courses:

[Navigating the Standards-Based Individualized Education Program \(SB IEP\) Process for Students with Dyslexia](#). Participants may take this course face-to-face, either virtually or in person, by finding a trainer at their regional education service center.

[ARD Committee Manager Training](#) provides best practices for ARD committee managers for local education agencies (LEAs) that choose to use this model. Other common job titles for this position include ARD Committee Facilitator, ARD Committee Chair, and Child-Centered Process Liaison. Position titles may vary from one LEA to another.

Online Resource and Course: [Guidance for the Comprehensive Evaluation of Specific Learning Disabilities](#). This guidance document will assist LEAs in conducting comprehensive educational evaluations of students suspected of having an SLD; understanding the two methods of SLD identification; and providing information in the full and individual evaluation (FIE) that will assist ARD committees in their decision-making process.

[Guidance for the Comprehensive Evaluation of Specific Learning Disabilities \(SLD\) is a self-paced, nine-module course](#) designed to equip educators, evaluation personnel, the required dyslexia member for the multidisciplinary team (MDT) or admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee, and school leaders with the knowledge and tools needed to conduct high-quality, legally compliant evaluations for students suspected of having SLD in Texas.

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Online Resources:

[When You Have Concerns: A Parent's Guide to Special Education Referrals for Children Ages 3-5](#) is a guide for parents to learn how to request an evaluation if they have concerns about their child's growth or learning.

[Developmental Delay Quick Guide and Frequently Asked Questions](#) outlines the criteria for identifying and determining eligibility for special education and related services for children with a developmental delay (DD). The frequently asked questions (FAQs) provide recommendations and best practices for identifying DD. The quick guide is a resource for teachers, special education personnel, administrators, and other professionals.

[Parentally Placed Private School Children Quick Guide and FAQ](#) highlights key points and important resources for local educational agencies (LEAs) to consider for children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools, including religious, elementary, and secondary schools located in the LEA, as well as children with disabilities who are homeschooled.

[Pathways: The Texas Transition and Employment Guide](#) is an updated resource that provides information on statewide services and programs that assist in the transition to life outside the public school system for students enrolled in special education programs and their parents.

[Connecting to Community Supports](#) is a resource developed to help districts and charters provide the parent or legal guardian of a student who has been identified as having an intellectual disability or a developmental delay with information about services and public benefits provided by the local intellectual and developmental disability authority (LIDDA) that serves the county in which the student resides. To share the required information at the first ARD committee meeting during which the IEP is developed for a student with an intellectual disability or a developmental delay, each local educational agency (LEA) will use the TEA provided resource to ensure that families are provided with information about their LIDDA. Before distributing this resource, add local contact information in the appropriate fields.

Online Community of Practice: Transition and Employment Designees (TEDs) in each district and charter are invited to join the TED Community of Practice (CoP). The application for the school year 2025-2026 is now available. Visit the [Transition and Employment Designee \(TED\) Community of Practice \(CoP\) page on Texas SPED Support](#) for more information.

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For additional questions or information regarding the above online courses or hyperlinked documents, please contact your Region 4 Special Education Solutions Director and leads: Dr. Thelissa Edwards, Director, Special Education, thelissa.edwards@esc4.net, 713.744.4418; Dr. Linda De Zell Hall, Assistant Director, Special Education, lhall@esc4.net, 713.744.6399; Kara Zwolinski, Special Education Child Find and Early to Exit IEP Supports Grant Project Manager and Regional Coordinator, kara.zwolinski@esc4.net, 713.744.6562; and Jessica Mueller, Regional Coordinator- Special Education Child Find and Early to Exit IEP Supports Grant Member-Early Childhood Special Education, jessica.mueller@esc4.net, 713.744.4486.

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