



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**Public Instruction**

Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

To: Dr. Jill Underly, Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction

From: Wisconsin Council on Special Education

Cc: Paul Manriquez, Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Learning Support,  
Wisconsin DPI, Patti Williams, Director of Special Education, Wisconsin DPI

Date: 01/20/2024

Re: Council on Special Education Recommendation

**Issue(s) / Subject:**

The Wisconsin Council on Special Education voted on January 20, 2023 on the following two recommendations to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The first recommendation is related to professional development for those that support students with disabilities. The second recommendation is related to build the capacity of general education teachers to support students with disabilities across general education environments.

**Recommendation(s):**

**First, the council on special education recommends to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction a focus on professional development that is provided and implemented with building level/district teams of general education teachers, special education teachers, building and district administrators, and paraprofessionals.**

**Guidelines for the recommendation:**

1. That professional learning be provided to building/district teams and is inclusive of all school staff; general education teachers, special education teachers, administrators, pupil services, and paraprofessionals and the work be done at building or district levels.
2. Professional learning is focused on high quality, evidence-based and culturally responsive instruction and aligns with Wisconsin's Model to Inform Culturally Responsive Practices and Wisconsin's School Mental Health Framework.
3. Professional learning that utilizes brain-based learning, engages professionals, and uses adult learning theory and is not sit and get.
4. Professional learning that is ongoing and sustained throughout the school year.
5. An understanding that high quality professional learning benefits all students with a focus on inclusive practices for diverse learners.
6. That facilitation of professional learning can be supported by DPI staff, CESA staff, Rtl Center staff, and DPI IDEA discretionary grant funded projects.

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7. That professional learning work be funded with stipends for out-of-school professional learning time and to fund district in-service professional learning.
8. That data be gathered and evaluated quarterly by school districts on team collaboration, student outcomes, and fidelity of implementation of instruction practices to determine professional learning implementation effectiveness, and that instructional changes be made as needed based on the data related to student learning.

**Second, the Wisconsin Council on Special Education recommends DPI explore ways that general education staff build their understanding of their collective responsibilities under IDEA to provide supplementary aids and services (e.g., accommodations) to students with disabilities and increase their capacity in providing access to age and grade level standards in the regular education setting through educator preparation and professional development.**

**Background / History:**

Both recommendations were drafted in the June 2022 meeting of the council on special education and were further revised in the September and December 2022 council meetings. In addition, council held a special workgroup meeting in the fall of 2022 to further revise the wording of the recommendation. A final vote on the recommendation was held with a quorum of council members attending a special meeting of council on January 20, 2023. The recommendations are based on special education council meeting discussion as well as from the council on special education public forum input from parents and educators.

DocuSigned by:

*Judith Conlin*

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Judith Conlin, Council on Special Education Co-Chair

DocuSigned by:

*Hugh J. Davis*

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Hugh Davis, Council on Special Education Co-Chair