Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities

TEA Ex-Officio Report

Justin Porter Ed.D.
State Director, Special Education

January 2022

Why is inclusion important?

Almost

of students served in special education spend

or more of their day in general education.

The inclusion rate has grown to almost 31% of all students with disabilities with an educational setting of mainstream classroom. 56% of students in a mainstream setting have a learning disability.

Inclusion Rate is Not Keeping Up

Mainstream:
General Education
≥80% of Day

Inclusion Rate

2011: 44.8%
2013: 45.6%
2015: 47.6%
2017: 46.6%
2019: 44.4%

Students served through special education are still falling below their same age peers.

Not tested in 2020 due to COVID

Inclusion in Texas

Inclusive Services & Practices for Improved Student Outcomes

INCLUSION IN TEXAS

InclusioninTexas.org

Effective teaching of students with disabilities in general education classrooms requires that curriculum and instruction is accessible and appropriate for individuals with different backgrounds, abilities, and disabilities, and must be provided in a wide variety of learning contexts.

The purpose of this network is to improve academic and functional outcomes for students served by special education.

Effective teaching of students with disabilities in general education classrooms requires that curriculum and instruction is accessible and appropriate for individuals with different backgrounds, abilities, and disabilities, and must be provided in a wide variety of learning contexts.

INCLUSION IN TEXAS

Purpose is to:

Improve academic and functional outcomes for students served by special education.

Resource Showcase and Access

Asynchronous Literacy for ALL Course | **Asynchronous Math for ALL Course** | **Texas Home Learning (THL) Supports**

Resource Tab

- Universal Design for Learning Courses
- Specifically Designed Instruction (SDI)
- Guidelines for Co-Teaching in Texas
- Working with Paraprofessionals
- Assistive Technology Resources
- ATIA Subscription
- AT Loan Library

Resource Showcase and Access

Asynchronous Literacy for ALL Course | Asynchronous Math for ALL Course | Texas Home Learning (THL) Supports

Literacy for All Training- Many students in grades 4-12 lack proficiency in foundational reading skills. This is the reason many older students cannot comprehend text.

It will also address how a student's learning abilities associated with reading can impact a student's ability to read and what instruction and accommodations can remove the barriers of learning.

Registration is FREE!

Resource Showcase and Access

Asynchronous Literacy for ALL Course | **Asynchronous Math for ALL Course** | Texas Home Learning (THL) Supports

Through hands-on activities, participants will explore how learning abilities associated with disabilities, including dyslexia and disorders related to dyslexia, impact the learning of whole number addition and subtraction.

Registration is FREE!

Resource Showcase and Access

Asynchronous Literacy for ALL Course | Asynchronous Math for ALL Course | **Texas Home Learning (THL) Supports**

Texas Home Learning Accommodation Companion Guides- bridge existing student accommodations to assistive technology (AT) options that enable access and greater student progress within THL materials. These quick reference documents can be used by both general and special educators to identify support options that meet individual student needs.

TEXAS HOME LEARNING: Accommodation Companion Guide

ODELL TEXAS High School Literacy Program

ACCOMMODATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY TOOL
Oral/signed administration Reading assistance Read parts of the questions and answer choices at student request	Accommodations that allow instructional materials to be read aloud or signed to a student	Text to speech technology can be used to read aloud printed content to students and can be customized to meet individual needs
Note taking assistance Copy of class notes Opportunity to audio record lecture Answers to be dictated	Accommodations that allow for various types of assistance with capturing content delivered orally or electronically	Speech to text technology can be used to transcribe spoken language into text Graphic organizers are visual thinking tools that demonstrate relationships between facts, concepts, or ideas Annotation tools allow students to add notes to digital versions of text
Language supports Supplemental aids	Accommodations that allow for various types of assistance to support a student's understanding of written text	Simplified definitions reduce vocabulary explanations to basic essentials Predictive text software generates word suggestions as a student types
Content supports Study sheets and teacher outlines Screen masking Text tracking assistance Supplemental aids	Accommodations that allow for various types of assistance to support a student's understanding of content	Tracking assistance highlights the current reading line to assist with following text and placemarking progress Graphic representations visually display, analyze, clarify, and interpret information Supplemental resources assist in recalling or understanding information ODELL Texas provides a Literacy Toolbox containing graphic organizers, reference guides, checklists and rubrics that are designed specifically for each instructional unit

It is important to keep in mind that while some accommodations may be appropriate for instructional use, they may not be appropriate or allowable on a statewide assessment.

For information and resources on Texas Home Learning please visit https://texashomelearning.org/

For a list of free accessibility tools please visit https://www.inclusiontexas.org/

Copyright © 2020. Texas Education Agency. All Rights Reserved.

Resource Tab

These are just some of the resources available on the site.

Gain first-hand knowledge on how best to design an inclusive learning environment.

Information for teachers who are assigned students receiving special education services and participate in the implementation of an IEP.

How to set up and implement effective co-teaching models for delivery of specially designed instruction.

To assist educators in taking full advantage of having a paraprofessional in their classroom (GenEd and SpEd).

SWD Data Update

Special Education Identification has Significantly Increased

Since 2013, Texas has seen 37.59% growth in the number of special education students.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). Digest of Education Statistics, 2015 (NCES 2016-014), Chapter 2. and http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=64 (* represents not yet published)

Special Education Identification has Significantly Increased

Since 2013, Texas has seen 37.59% growth in the number of special education students.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). Digest of Education Statistics, 2015 (NCES 2016-014), Chapter 2. and http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=64

Special Education Evaluations Serve as a Leading Indicator for Total Special Education Representation

The decline in 2019-20 evaluations may be at least partially the result of COVID school closures in March 2020.

Texas has shown the biggest increase in serving students with disabilities in the past 3 years.

State comparison for states > 275,000 SPED Child Count under IDEA

Almost one-third of students with disabilities are students with a specific learning disability.

SY 2020-2021

There has been an almost **1 billion dollar increase** in Special Education Spending.

Students served through special education are still falling below their same age peers.

Not tested in 2020 due to COVID

The COVID slide affected all students in Texas, students with disabilities didn't see as big of a drop from 2019 to 2021 as their same age peers.

Students with disabilities continue to graduate high school at lower rates than their peers. Dropout rates for students with disabilities continues to be higher as well.

Students identified with dyslexia continues to increase.

In the last 7 years, there has been a 121% growth in students identified.

College, Career, and Military Readiness

State
Special Education

2018-2019 Texas College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) Graduates

Monitoring Cyclical and Targeted

Approximately
23%
LEAs Monitored Annually

Schools represented in the blue bars would not have been monitored under the prior monitoring system.

Six-year Monitoring Cycle Snapshot*

Cycle 1 and 2

Total = **399** LEAS

On-sites

Cycle 1: **23** LEAs
Cycle 2: **19** LEAs (virtual)

Cycle 3 – 6

Total = **817*** LEAS to be monitored

On-sites

By 2024-2025, all LEAs * will participate in monitoring, with Determination Level 3 and 4 LEAs selected for cyclical on-site monitoring

*817 of 1,216 LEAs as of 8/1/2021. Additions, closures, or consolidations will impact the total number of LEAs monitored for each future cycle.

RDA LEA Determination Levels inform selection for Targeted Monitoring.

SSES

- The SSES program began in January 2021.
- With the expansion of SB 1716, SSES is now open to all students served through special education.
- The program has expanded to receive additional funding and families are still applying daily.
- We are currently on a waitlist and accounts will be awarded as new accounts become available.

18,000+ Student accounts awarded

+100,000 Approved educational goods

+50,000 Eligible applications received

+10,000 Approved educational services

Data from January 20, 2022

Thank you!