



Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

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NLSEC Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Consultant Adjustment in Service Provision Discussion Points

Past Practice:

Up until now, NLSEC ASD Consultants have been required to be a part of every student evaluation when considering ASD and every IEP team for students with a primary disability of Autism. Currently, there are approximately 198 students attending in Coop districts identified or being evaluated for ASD. Besides these duties, ASD Consultants also attend CST meetings, consult with a variety of staff and parents, provide training on ASD Strategies, etc.

Proposed Change in Service Provision:

It's not necessary for these consultants to be a part of every student evaluation and eligibility determination. According to MN Rule 3525.1325 Subp. 4, the process must include at least one professional with experience and expertise in ASD.

It's recommended that the consultant and the school psychologist communicate closely in each case to ensure the appropriate team member is fulfilling the evaluation needs.

It's also not necessary for the consultants to be on every IEP team for students with ASD. An IEP team for these students must consist of a licensed teacher in the area of ASD or Academic and Behavioral Strategist (ABS) and some schools have building staff that fulfill these requirements. An ABS license has the ability to teach students with mild-moderate disabilities. An IEP determines what level of need a student has and rule doesn't specify the correlation with Federal Setting or placement. Any decisions about limiting the Federal Settings in which teachers with an ABS license may teach occur at the District level.

Again, it's recommended that the consultant and the school team communicate closely in each case to ensure the appropriate team member is satisfying the appropriate team membership. MOST of the time, the NLSEC consultants will be a part of IEP teams for these students.