

## ***Background on Developmentally Delayed Learner (DDL) Verification and Evolution of the Form***

In 1999 the DDL Task Force published the criteria for the DDL Verification Form. At the time, only DDL Specialists and DSPS Coordinators were permitted to sign the form in order to verify a student as qualifying for LD. However, there were no current pathways to becoming certified as a DDL Specialist, nor have there been for the past 15 years or so. As a result, very few colleges have DDL Specialists on staff, and many DSPS Coordinators have appointed Learning Disability (LD) specialists to complete the form and then pass it along to DSPS Coordinators for their signature of approval.

LD Specialists are trained in cognitive assessment and interpretation and are usually the ones conducting cognitive testing on campuses. In the process of this assessment they may determine that a student does not qualify for DSPS services under the category of LD, but does qualify under the new classification of Intellectual Disabilities (ID). The LD Field Advisory group reasoned it would be more efficient if the LD Specialists could officially determine that ID criteria are met at that time and be permitted to sign the verification form.

This proposal was then vetted by the LD specialists in their regional meetings and before the DSPS Regional Coordinators Advisory Group, which also approved the change. At the October 15, 2011 LD Field Advisory meeting the group recommended the change to the Chancellor's Office, which approved it and modified the DDL Verification Form to note the addition of LD Specialists to the approved signers list.

In February 2016, following collaboration with professionals in the field, the Chancellor's Office approved the newly revised and renamed ID verification form, consistent with Title 5 revisions.