

Regulating the Diagnosis of Learning Disability and the Provision of Test Accommodations in Institutions of Higher Education

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The current paper describes an endeavor to develop policy and procedure for standardizing and regulating the diagnosis of learning disability (LD) both in applicants to higher education institutions and in currently enrolled students, and for regulating the provision of test accommodations.

This endeavor, conducted by The National Institute for Testing and Evaluation (NITE) in cooperation with the Council of Higher Education in Israel, included: (1) development, validation and norming of MATAL: a computer-based test battery for the diagnosis of LD; (2) development of a statistical decision rule for determining diagnosis based on test results; (3) development of guidelines for the provision of test accommodations; (4) establishment of diagnostic centers within institutions of higher education; and (5) establishment of a professional network of all parties involved in the diagnosis and support of students with LD in institutions of higher education.

Over 10,000 applicants to higher education institutions and students were diagnosed by MATAL in the past five years.