

# Special Services Providers Quality Standards

Effective Special Services Providers (SSPs) in the state of Colorado are vital members of the education team and have the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure that diverse student populations have equitable access to academic instruction and participation in school-related activities. Effective Special Services Providers develop, implement, and support evidence-based services and/or specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of their students. They support growth and development to close achievement gaps and prepare students for postsecondary and workforce success. They have a deep understanding of the interconnectedness of the home, school and community, and collaborate with all members of the education team to strengthen those connections. Through reflection, advocacy, and leadership, they enhance the outcomes and development of their students.

Just as the Colorado Academic Standards provide common expectations for student learning, the Special Services Providers Quality Standards outline the knowledge and skills required of an excellent SSP. They are the core of the evaluation process and offer a tool for practitioner self-reflection, goal setting and ongoing professional growth.

The Special Services Providers Quality Standards are foundational to providing every student with what they deserve—excellent SSPs who are consistently supported in their efforts to improve their practice and influence student learning in new and powerful ways.

## QUALITY STANDARD I

**Special Services Providers demonstrate mastery of and expertise in the domain for which they are responsible.**

**ELEMENT A:** Special Services Providers provide services aligned with state and federal laws, local policies and procedures, Colorado Academic Standards, their district's organized plans of instruction and the individual needs of their students.

**ELEMENT B:** Special Services Providers demonstrate knowledge of effective services that reduce barriers to and support learning.

**ELEMENT C:** Special Services Providers demonstrate knowledge of their professions and integrate evidence-based practices and research findings into their services.

## QUALITY STANDARD II

**Special Services Providers support or establish safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.**

**ELEMENT A:** Special Services Providers foster a safe, accessible, and predictable learning environment characterized by acceptable student behavior and efficient use of time in which each student has a positive, nurturing relationship with caring adults and peers.

**ELEMENT B:** Special Services Providers understand and respond to diversity within the home, school, and community.

**ELEMENT C:** Special Services Providers engage students as individuals with diverse needs and interests, across a range of ability levels by adapting services for the benefit of students.

**ELEMENT D:** Special Services Providers work collaboratively with the families and/or significant adults for the benefit of students.

### QUALITY STANDARD III

**Special Services Providers plan and deliver effective services in an environment that facilitates learning for their students.**

**ELEMENT A:** Special Services Providers apply knowledge of the ways in which learning takes place, including the appropriate levels of intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development of their students.

**ELEMENT B:** Special Services Providers utilize formal and informal assessments to inform planning and service delivery.

**ELEMENT C:** Special Services Providers integrate and utilize appropriate available technology to engage students in authentic learning experiences.

**ELEMENT D:** Special Services Providers establish and communicate high expectations and use strategies to support the development of critical-thinking, problem-solving skills, and self-advocacy.

**ELEMENT E:** Special Services Providers develop and implement services related to student needs, learning, and progress towards goals.

**ELEMENT F:** Special Services Providers model and promote effective communication.

### QUALITY STANDARD IV

**Special Services Providers demonstrate professionalism through ethical conduct, reflection, and leadership.**

**ELEMENT A:** Special Services Providers demonstrate high standards for ethical and professional conduct.

**ELEMENT B:** Special Services Providers link professional growth to their professional goals.

**ELEMENT C:** Special Services Providers respond to a complex, dynamic environment.

**ELEMENT D:** Special Services Providers demonstrate leadership and advocacy in the school, the community, and their profession.



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