

## Determination of Learning Disabilities: A Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses Model

To determine eligibility for specific learning disabilities (LD) the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center utilizes an evaluative model commonly referred to as “pattern of strengths and weaknesses” (PSW). The PSW model involves two major components. The first component is to review the student’s response to targeted instruction and/or interventions in the general education setting. Prior to considering LD eligibility, it must be clear that intensive general education interventions were attempted but unsuccessful in correcting the academic delay(s). The second component includes additional assessments to determine if a pattern of strengths and weaknesses can be identified. Consistent with commonly accepted practice, the eligibility determination team must identify at least four areas of weaknesses within an eligibility category (e.g., reading comprehension) and three areas of strength in a different eligibility category for LD eligibility to be considered.

For further information about this process, call the school office at 459-0330.