



Disabilities & Neurodiversity SIG

# **Special Interest Group Meeting HACAC Conference, 2025**



## Disabilities & Neurodiversity SIG

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Currently SLD (Specific Learning Disorder/ Disability  
Strand facilitator) for NACAC SIG

Former Co-Chair of NACAC LD Sig



# Roadmap for Today

1. Introduction to the SIG
2. A brief history of the SIG
3. Updates to name, goals and expansion of affinity groups
4. Some resources to share
5. Discussion: goals for HACAC



# History of the SIG

Founded in 2018, the year after Boston NACAC by a group of counselors touring schools that specialize in serving students with learning disabilities/ differences (Dean, Landmark, Curry).

Founder was Dr. Jill Corbin, I jumped along for the ride (and was in the conversations on the tour!)

Initially, the focus of the group was learning differences/ disabilities.

Discussion over the years spawned a desire to be more broadly inclusive.

With new leadership in 2024, through collaboration and discussion, a new mission, vision, and title of the SIG was established, along with sub groups.

[HANDOUT](#)

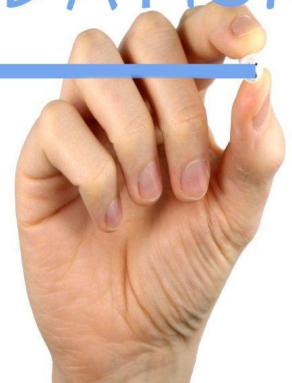
# What's in the name?

## NACAC Disabilities & Neurodiversity SIG

- Why Disability?
- Why Neurodiversity?
  - What do we mean by that here?



ACCOMMODATION



# **Affinity Group/ Strands within the SIG**

I volunteered to chair the **Learning Disability (SLD) Strand**, and will continue to be a voice for learning disabilities here in Hawaii and at NACAC.

The Other Current Strands, Affinity Groups:

- **ADHD**
- **Autism Spectrum Disorders**
- **Physical Disabilities / Hearing & Vision Impairments / Chronic Health**
- **Mental Health Conditions**
- **Intellectual Disabilities**
- **Professionals with Disabilities**

# SLD in educational settings

## Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Sec. 300.8 (c) (10)

### Specific learning disability

- (i) General. Specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.
- (ii) Disorders not included. Specific learning disability does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of intellectual disability, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

Specific Learning Disorder (SLD)	Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
<b>Medical term</b> used for a clinical diagnosis.	<b>Educational and legal term</b> used in schools and legal systems.
Defined in the <b>DSM-5</b> (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders).	Defined under <b>IDEA</b> (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Diagnosis made by <b>clinicians</b> , such as psychologists, pediatricians, neurologists based on specific criteria.	Identification made by <b>educators and school teams</b> for special education services and accommodations.
Used to describe <b>neurological-based difficulties</b> in reading, writing, or math.	Used to determine <b>eligibility for services</b> under U.S. special education law
Can qualify an individual for a <b>learning disability classification</b> in the educational system.	Someone with a diagnosis of <b>specific learning disorder</b> typically qualifies for <b>learning disability</b> status in school.
Not a legally recognized disability on its own but can contribute to eligibility.	Recognized as a <b>federally protected disability</b> , granting access to accommodations and services.



# Continue the Conversation

Please continue the conversation

Join the NACAC Disabilities and Neurodiversity SIG (Special Interest Group)

On NACAC Engage (NACAC members only)

<https://engage.nacacnet.org/home>

In Groups IO (NACAC membership not required)

<https://groups.io/g/NACACLD SIG>

Link to further [Resources Document](#)



# Discussion Questions

1. What challenges do you face in helping students with neurodiversity/ disabilities transition to college/ postsecondary learning?
2. What topics are most interesting to you for future PD?
3. What specific issues do students with SLD face in your school?
4. What about those with autism? ADHD? Mental health challenges? Physical and sensory disabilities?
5. Are there Hawaii specific challenges related to these issues we should explore?
6. Open forum/ goal setting