Special Education

Quick Stats

Agency	Program/Policy Start Date	Number Served Annually	Annual Budget
Department of Education	Fall 2010: Phase 1 schools Fall 2012: all schools	1600 schools (approximately)	N/A

Problem Statement	There is a significant achievement gap for black and Latino students with disabilities in New York City.

Research and Evidence	The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004 states that Congress found the following: "research demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be more effective by having high expectations for such children and ensuring access to general education." After the application of this reform described below, Phase 1 schools (260) decreased initial referrals by 19.4% and saw an increase in movement to least restrictive environment when compared to non Phase 1 schools.

Program Description	Target citywide professional development for networks (school support organizations) to increase capacity of schools to better serve children with special education needs Provide technical assistance in an effort to promote more flexible instructional programs and approaches and thus increase the number of students with disabilities participating in the general education curriculum Build system-wide instructional and organizational capacity at the central, network and school levels.

Implementation Timeline	Fall 2010: Phase 1 Pilot Fall 2012: Citywide implementation

Target Population	Students with disabilities

Expected Outcomes	• Increase rates of movement of black and Latino boys from Most Restrictive Educational Environment (MRE) to Less Restrictive Educational Environment (LRE) • Reduction in rates of suspensions of African-American boys with Individual Educational Programs