



Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement

Unique Learning Needs Training Module



Department of
Education



Objectives

- Defining Unique Learning Needs
- TISA Law & Rule
- Student Subgroups
 - Students with Disabilities
 - English Learners
 - Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia
- Average Daily Membership (ADM)
- Monitoring

Unique Learning Needs

- A **Unique Learning Need (ULN)** is a learning need for which an LEA must provide the student individualized services, interventions, accommodations, or modifications to meet the student's needs
- ULNs are tied to needed academic supports for students and each includes:
 - An **assessment** for identification
 - A **service plan** of supports



ULNs in TISA Law & Rule

TISA Law

- ULNs are divided into 10 categories ranging from ULN 1 through ULN 10, aligned to higher levels of support necessary to meet the student's unique learning needs.
- Each ULN has a weight percentage assigned to correspond to services needed.
- The ULN's weight is multiplied by the base funding amount to generate additional funds for students.

ULN	Weight
ULN 1	15%
ULN 2	20%
ULN 3	40%
ULN 4	60%
ULN 5	70%
ULN 6	75%
ULN 7	80%
ULN 8	100%
ULN 9	125%
ULN 10	150%

ULNs in TISA Law & Rule

TISA Rule

- Defines which types of student subgroups will be covered in the ULNs
- Places each student subgroup into ULNs based on need, differentiating within subgroups where applicable

Student Subgroups

- Students with Disabilities
- English Learners
- Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia

Students with Disabilities

STUDENT SUBGROUP

ASSESSMENT:

Initial Evaluation
and Annual
Reevaluation

PLAN: Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- IEPs capture services and hours needed to support the student's instructional needs as determined by the IEP team
- Services and hours are translated into special education option codes in the state system
- A student may generate both a primary and secondary option code, if applicable
- Option codes are then assigned into specific ULNs based on the TISA Rule

Students with Disabilities

STUDENT SUBGROUP

Special Education Option Code	Services / Hours Descriptions	Unique Learning Need Assignment
Option 1	Consultation - Minimum of 2 contacts/month, except OT/PT (minimum of 3 contacts/year). Time must be reported. Direct Services equal to or less than 1 hour/week. Related Services equal less than 1 hour/week.	ULN 1
Option 2	Direct Services more than or equal to 1, but less than 4 hours/week; or any one Related Service more than or equal to 1, but less than 4 hours/week.	ULN 2
Option 3	Direct Services more than or equal to 4, but less than 9 hours/week; or any one Related Service more than or equal to 4, but less than 9 hours/week.	ULN 3
Option 4	Direct Services more than or equal to 9, but less than 14 hours/week; or any one Related Service more than or equal to 9, but less than 14 hours/week.	ULN 6
Option 5	Direct Services more than or equal to 14, but less than 23 hours/week; or any one Related Service more than or equal to 14, but less than 23 hours/week.	ULN 7
Option 6	Ancillary Services - Attendant provided so that the student can have at least 4 hours/day in less restrictive and general education settings.	ULN 8
Option 7	Direct Services - Special Education services 23 or more hours/week; or, any one Related Service 23 or more hours/week.	ULN 9
Option 8	Self-Contained or CDC - The sum of all direct services plus related services listed below plus up to 10 hours/week of special education educational assistant in the general program equals 32.5 or more hours/ week. In addition, at least two Related Services from those specified below must be received for at least the minimum times listed. •1 Hour/Week: Psychological Services, Counseling Services, Speech/Language Services, Vision Services, Hearing Services •3 contacts/year, with time span reported: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy	ULN 9
Option 9	Residential Services - Provided 24 hours/day.	ULN 10
Option 10	Hospital/Homebound - Provided 3 or more hours/week.	ULN 10

English Learners

STUDENT SUBGROUP

ASSESSMENT:

Home Language,
Entry Screener,
WIDA

PLAN:

Individual
Learning Plan (ILP)

Data Used to Inform TISA

- English Learner status
 - Receiving direct services
 - Receiving indirect services
 - Transition Year 1 or 2
- Number of years receiving English Learner (EL) services
- WIDA scores

English Learners

TIER 1: *English Learners*

- Transition Year 1 or 2 students OR
- Students receiving indirect services OR
- Long-term English learners (7+ years of ESL services)

TIER 2: *English Learners*

- Receives direct ESL services AND
- Meets one of the following
 - Has received ESL services for 4+ years OR
 - WIDA score above 3

TIER 3: *English Learners*

- Receives direct ESL services AND
- Has received ESL services for a maximum of 3 years AND
- WIDA score of 3 or lower

EL Tier	Assigned ULN
EL Tier 1	ULN 2
EL Tier 2	ULN 4
EL Tier 3	ULN 5

Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia

STUDENT SUBGROUP

ASSESSMENT:

Composite on universal reading screener or an LEA's Early Warning System, **and** deficiencies in 50% or more of the grade-appropriate subtests

PLAN:

ILP – Characteristics of Dyslexia (ILP-D)

- Characteristics of dyslexia is an identification of a unique set of reading challenges and is not synonymous with a specific learning disability in reading.
- Students whose parent/guardian decline an ILP-D or a student who has an IEP to support deficiencies in basic reading, reading fluency, or reading comprehension do not qualify for Characteristics of Dyslexia ULN
- All students with active ILP-Ds are assigned to ULN 2
- All districts will receive Characteristics of Dyslexia ULN counts aligned to 5% of their base average daily membership (ADM) in the first year of TISA implementation

Average Daily Membership

- Once a student has been categorized into a ULN, the student's average daily membership (ADM) for the year will be used to multiply by the designated ULN weight and base funding amount
- ADM values start from the date a student's service plan is in place until it is no longer assigned
- If a student's status changes during the year, the ULN assignment and ADM data will shift as well

EXAMPLE

At the beginning of the year, Student A's initial IEP places the student as a ULN 2, but exactly midway through the year Student A has their annual IEP meeting. The IEP is updated and now generates ULN 3. Student A will generate funding for ULN 2 for half of the year and then generate ULN 3 funding for the period of the year following the IEP update.

ULN Funding

Funding through ULNs is determined by:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{ULN ADM Value}) \times (\text{ULN Weight \%}) \\ & \times (\text{TISA Base Funding Amount}) = (\text{ULN Funding}) \end{aligned}$$

Example: Student A is assigned special education option code 3 during annual IEP meeting halfway through the year

- ULN ADM Value: **.5** representing assignment to the ULN for half of the year
- ULN Weight: Option Code 3 is assigned to ULN 3 which has a weight of **40%**
- TISA Base Funding: **\$6,860** for 2023-24
 $.5 \times 40\% \times \$6,860 = \$1,372$



ULN Funding

- Students may generate up to four ULNs:
 - Two for special education services (primary and secondary option codes)
 - One for English Learner Tier
 - One for Characteristics of Dyslexia
- Students may generate the same ULN more than once



Monitoring

- All student subgroups are monitored for compliance with state and federal regulations
- Monitoring protocols review the identification, plans, and services for student subgroups
- State monitors for variations in identification rates and quality of service plans



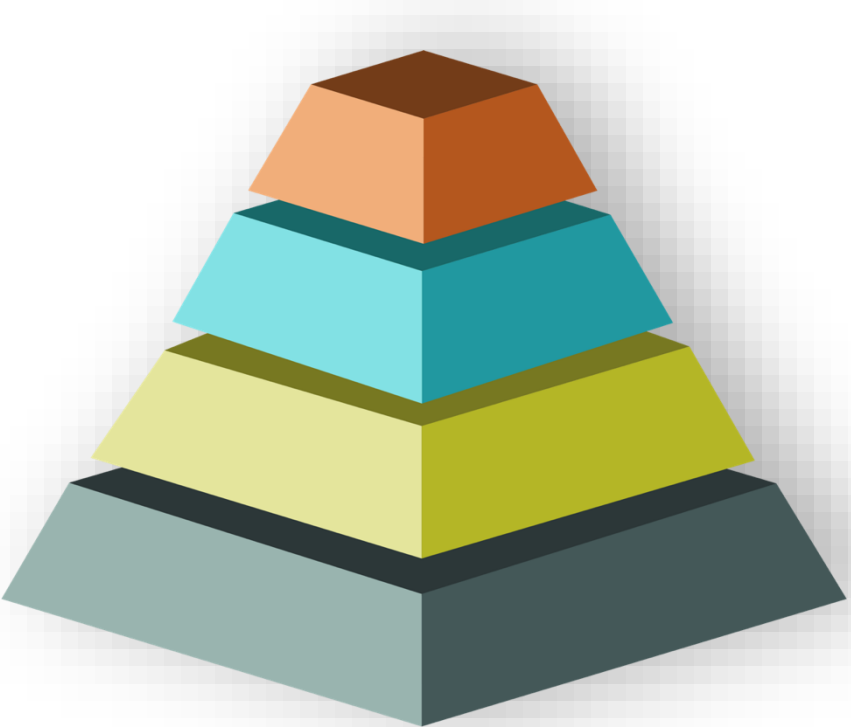
Putting It All Together

ULNs are part of the weights in the TISA funding formula and provide additional resources to support student needs.

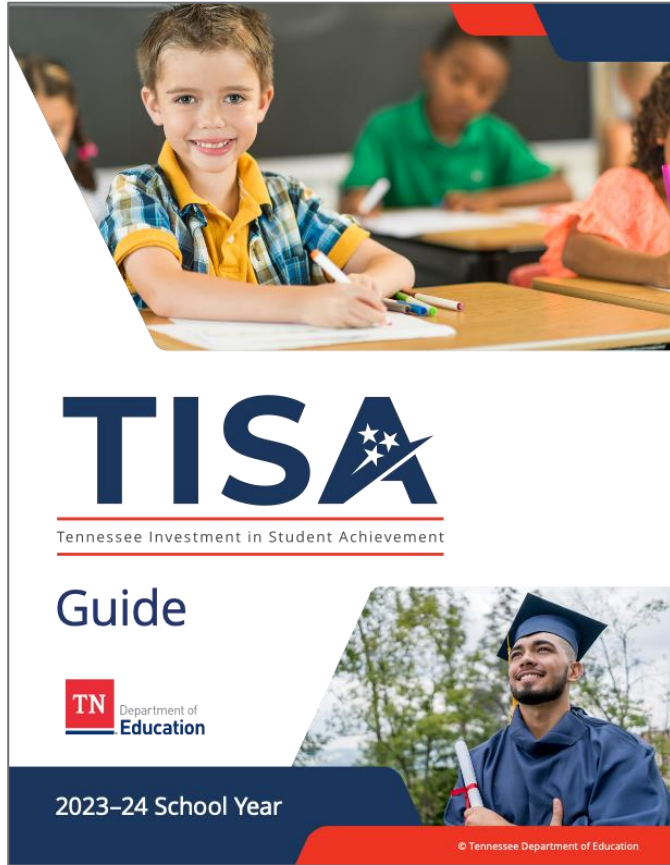
Unique Learning Need	Weight	ULN Descriptions
ULN 1	15%	Special Education Option 1
ULN 2	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Special Education Option 2English Learner Tier ICharacteristics of Dyslexia
ULN 3	40%	Special Education Option 3
ULN 4	60%	English Learner Tier II
ULN 5	70%	English Learner Tier III
ULN 6	75%	Special Education Option 4
ULN 7	80%	Special Education Option 5
ULN 8	100%	Special Education Option 6
ULN 9	125%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Special Education Option 7Special Education Option 8
ULN 10	150%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Special Education Option 9Special Education Option 10

Weights

Provides additional funds for students with **unique learning needs** or who may need additional supports



More Information



<https://www.tn.gov/education/best-for-all/tnedufunding.html>

- Unique Learning Needs Quick Guide
- TISA Rules – Unique Learning Needs
- Links to additional supports for assessments & plans to support unique learning needs