



## Special Education Leadership Issues

Est. Time: Pre-Class/In-Class 4-5 Hours

### Objective

To develop an awareness of the current issues and concerns of educational leaders regarding the provision of educational services to students with disabilities.

### Overview

Federal laws passed over the last three decades have revolutionized the way that public institutions treat individuals with disabilities, with far-reaching effects for public schools. New requirements and increased accountability for students with disabilities have added to the demands placed on educational leaders and other staff members who often have not received adequate professional preparation. It is essential that the concerns of leaders responsible for ensuring appropriate educational services be identified and addressed. In collaborating with special education personnel, general education leaders are encouraged to make use of the information available in special education journals on how to improve service delivery.

### Activity

1. Select three general education administrators (not enrolled in this class) who have building-level responsibility for special education services (generally assistant principals). These can be all at one level (i.e., elementary, middle, or high school) or you might select one from each level. Ask each professional to identify his or her top three concerns related to serving students with disabilities.
2. Compile responses on the attached table. Are there similar concerns? Which issues are mentioned most frequently?
3. Locate one journal article (published within the last five to ten years) that discusses one of the issues or themes identified in your interviews. Summarize the article and include a discussion of how this article might assist educational leaders in better understanding or responding to the issue.



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## Pre-Class Field Review

Complete the following table.

Respondent/Role	Concern #1	Concern #2	Concern #3

Concern selected for journal article:

APA cite for selected article:

Briefly summarize the article and include a discussion of how this article might assist educational leaders in better understanding or responding to the concern.



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### Questions/Discussion Topics

In class, form small groups with other students (3-4).

1. Share findings from the field review and the journal article summaries. What prevalent themes emerged during your discussion? Select a spokesperson for the group. Be prepared to share themes with the entire class.
2. Discuss implications for the work of educational leaders in responding to the identified concerns.
3. How do the concerns from the field review compare with your own “top three?”