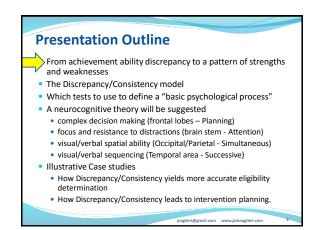
# SLD Identification Using a Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses in Basic Psychological Processes (PASS) as measured by CAS2 Jack A. Naglieri, Ph.D. University of Virginia Devereux Center for Resilient Children jnaglieri@gmail.com

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# Introductions Introduce yourself to those at your table My interest in intelligence and instruction Initial degrees in psychology Experiences at UGA Need for evidence based interpretation My personal perspective on being a researcher and test developer Why this topic?



# IDEA and NASP Guidelines What are some of the details of the Law?



### **IDEA 2004**

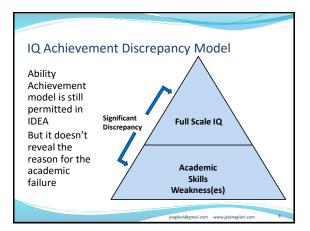
IQ achievement discrepancy no longer required

(6) SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwiths, using section 607(b), when determining whether a chill has a specific learning disability as defined in section 602, a local educational agency shall not be required to take into consideration whether a child has a severe discrepancy between achievement and intellectual ability in oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, basic reading skill, reading comprehension, mathematical calculation, or

mathematical reasoning.

"(B) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—In determining whether a child has a specific learning disability, a local educational agency may use a process that determines if the child responds to spiritific responds to the spiritific r responds to scientific, research-based intervention as a part of the evaluation procedures described in paragraphs (2)



### **IDEA 2004**

use a variety of tools"

"(2) CONDUCT OF EVALUATION.—In conducing the evaluation, the local educational agency shall—
"(A) use a variety of assessment tools and strategies

to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information, including information provided by the parent, nay assist in determining

'not use any single measure as sole criterion"

(i) whether the child is a child with a disability;

the sole criterion for determining whether a child is a child with a disability or determining an appropriate edu-cational program for the child; and

"(C) use technically sound instruments that may asses the relative contribution of cognitive and behavioral factors in addition to physical levelopmental factors.

"assess cognitive factors"

### **IDEA 2004**

assessments

valid and reliable

assessment

"(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Each local educational agency shall ensure that—
"(A) assessments and other evaluation materials used to assess a child under this section—

non discriminatory

ssess a child under this section—

"(i) are selected and administered so as not to discriminatory on a racial or cultural basis;

"(ii) are provided and administered in the language and form most likely to yield accurate information on what the child knows and can do academically,

developmentally, and functionally, unless it is not fea-sible to so provide or administer; "(iii) are used for purposes for which the assess-ments or measures are valid and reliable; "(iv) are administered by trained and knowledge-

able personnel; and
"(v) are administered in accordance with any instructions provided by the producer of such asses

ments; "(B) the child is assessed in all areas of suspected

disability; "(C) assessment tools and strategies that provide relevant information that directly assists persons in deter-

### **IDEA 2004**

"(6) SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES.—

"(A) In General.—Notwithstanding section 607(b) when determining whether a child has a specific learning disability as defined in section 602, a local educational agency shall not be required to take into consideration whether a child has a severe discrepancy between achievement and intellectual ability in oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, basic reading skill reading comprehension, mathematical calculation, or

mathematical reasoning.

"(B) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—In determining whether a child has a specific learning disability, a local educational agency may use a process that determines if the child responds to scientific, research-based intervention as a part of the evaluation procedures described in paragraphs (2)

RTI may be used AS A PART of the evaluation... but not as sole method

### **IDEA 2004**

Definition of SLD remains the same

"(30) SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY. "(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'specific learning disability' means a disorder in 1 or more of the basic psycho-

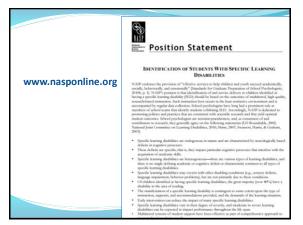
logical processes involved in understanding or in using d, which disorder may manifest These statements ity to listen, think, speak, read, describe a pattern of natical calculations.

strengths and CLUDED.—Such term includes such al disabilities, brain injury, minimal weaknesses in basic exia, and developmental aphasia. psychological \*UDED.—Such term does not processes; but not low primarily the result in all processes motor disabilities, of mental retarda-

tion, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

### **IDEA Law Summary**

- Ability achievement discrepancy is no longer required (not disallowed)
- We must use a variety of assessment tools
- The use of any single measure or assessment as the sole criterion for determining SLD is not permitted
- RTI alone is not permitted
- Use assessments that are not discriminatory on racial or cultural basis
- Definition of SLD remains
  - 'a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes'
- For more information see: http://idea.ed.gov/



### **NASP 2011 SLD Position**

- "NASP recommends that initial evaluation of a student with a suspected specific learning disability includes an individual comprehensive assessment...
- This evaluation may include measures of academic skills (norm-referenced and criterion-referenced), cognitive abilities and processes, and mental health status (social-emotional development); measures of academic and oral language proficiency as appropriate; classroom observations; and indirect sources of data (e.g., teacher and parent reports)."

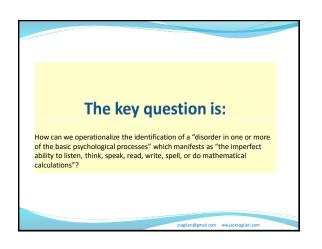
### **NASP 2011 SLD Position**

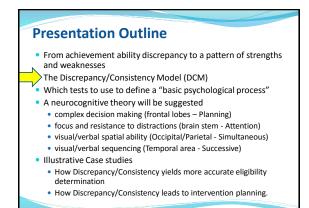
- "Existing data from a problem-solving process that determines if the child responds to scientific evidence-based intervention may be considered at the time of referral, or new data of this type may be collected as part of the Tier 3 comprehensive evaluation.
- Eligibility determination should not be based on any single method, measure, or assessment."

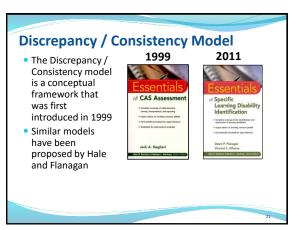


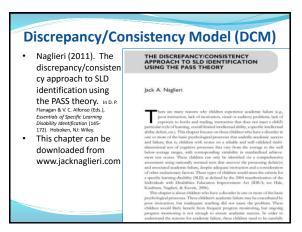
### Hale, Naglieri, Kaufman, & Kavale (2004)

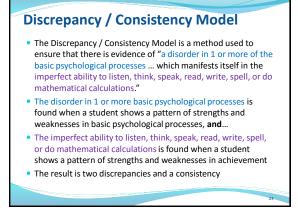
- Because the definition of SLD is
  - "... a disorder in 1 or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which disorder may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations."
- "Establishing a disorder in the basic psychology processes is essential for determining SLD"
- So that the legal definition is aligned with the procedural methods used for eligibility
- But how, exactly, would measuring basic psychological processes be used for SLD eligibility determination?

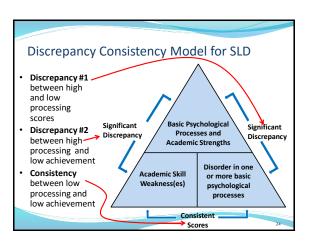


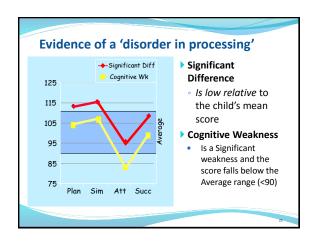


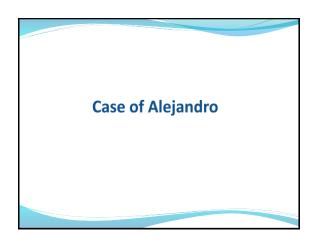


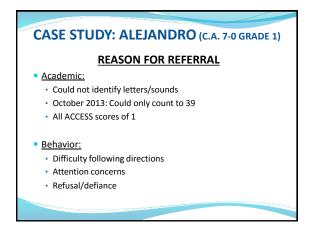


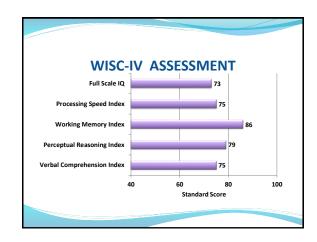


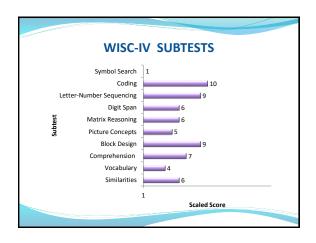


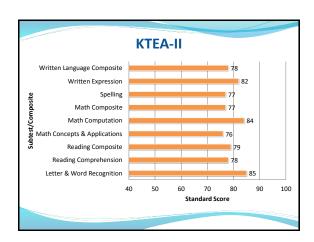


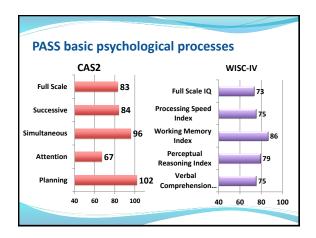






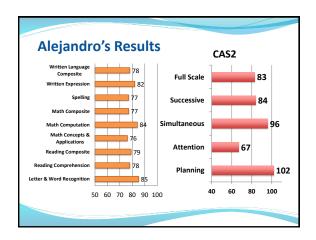


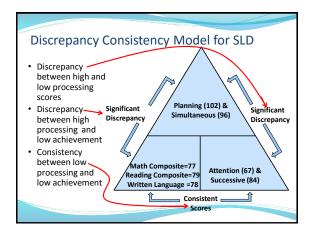




## **Thoughts about Alejandro**

- · We want to help our students, but how?
- What have tried to get information from the Wechsler Scales
  - Subtest analysis (doesn't work)
  - Interpretation of subtests according to other views (Working Memory, Speed, CHC, etc.) -doesn't work
- Cross Battery approach?
  - · Reliability and Validity evidence is weak
- Which test/method should we use?
- All these questions will be answered...





## The case of Alejandro (by Dr. Otero)

- Alejandro has a "disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes"
  - Attention = 67 and Successive = 84
- Good scores in basic psychological processes:
  - Simultaneous = 96 and Planning = 102
- He has documented academic failure
- Conclusions: He has intra-individual differences in basic psychological processes that underlie his academic problems

## **Discrepancy / Consistency Model**

- The Discrepancy / Consistency Model is a conceptual approach to ensure that there is evidence of...
  - a discrepancy between high and low (e.g., a significant weakness) scores in basic psychological processes
  - a discrepancy between high scores in basic psychological processes and low academic scores
  - a consistency between low scores in basic psychological processes and low academic scores
- The discrepancies ensure that the student has (1) within student variability in psychological processes and (2) a difference between processing and achievement
- The consistency helps us understand WHY the student has failed and WHAT to do about it

### **How to Operationalize this Model**

- IDEA "each local educational agency shall ensure that assessments ...used to assess a child" are:
  - "selected ... so as not to be discriminatory on a racial or cultural basis"
  - "used for purposes for which the ... measures are valid and reliable"
  - "technically sound [to assess] cognitive factors"
- Standardized norm based tests are the best way to evaluate and calibrate academic skills
  - Tests like the K-TEA. WIAT-III. WJ-IV. FAR. etc.
- Standardized norm based tests are the best way to evaluate and calibrate basic psychological processes

### Time to Think and Talk

START

<mark>minutes</mark> left

- Reactions?
- Which test results make more sense?
- Was WISC-IV information Helpful?
- Did CAS2 Results change your mind?
- · Can you determine if the student has a SLD using DCM?
- Your thoughts...

### **Presentation Outline**

- From achievement ability discrepancy to a pattern of strengths and weaknesses
- The Discrepancy/Consistency model
- Which tests to use to define a "basic psychological process"
- A neurocognitive theory will be suggested
  - · complex decision making (frontal lobes Planning)
  - focus and resistance to distractions (brain stem Attention)
  - visual/verbal spatial ability (Occipital/Parietal Simultaneous)
  - visual/verbal sequencing (Temporal area Successive)
- Illustrative Case studies
  - How Discrepancy/Consistency yields more accurate eligibility
  - How Discrepancy/Consistency leads to intervention planning.

### Hale, Naglieri, Kaufman, & Kavale (2004)

- Tests that we specifically developed to measure basic psychological processes should be used
  - The K-ABC II (Kaufman & Kaufman, 2004)
  - Planning, Attention, Simultaneous, Successive (PASS) theory as measured by the CAS2 (Naglieri, Das & Goldstein, 2014)
- These and any other tests, will be evaluated based on two essential criteria included in IDEA:
  - Suitability for assessment of diverse populations
  - · Validity for use in SLD eligibility determination

**Non-discriminatory Tests** 

Do Students with SLD Have a Pattern of Cognitive Strengths and Weaknesses?

This is essential for intervention planning

### **IDEA 2004**

"(3) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Each local educational agency shall ensure that—

"(A) assessments and other evaluation materials used

non discriminatory assessments

(A) assessments and other evaluation materials used sess a child under this section— (i) are selected and administered so as not to discriminatory on a racial or cultural basis; (ii) are provided and administered in the language

(ii) are provided and administered in the language and form most likely to yield accurate information by what the child knows and can do academically, slevelopmentally, and functionally, unless it is not feasible to so provide or administer;

"(iii) are used for purposes for which the assessments or measures are valid and reliable;

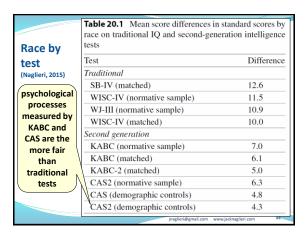
"(iv) are administered by trained and knowledge.

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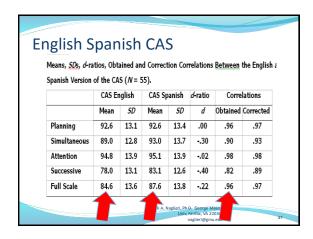
disability;
"(C) assessment tools and strategies that provide rel-

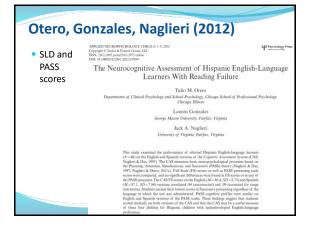


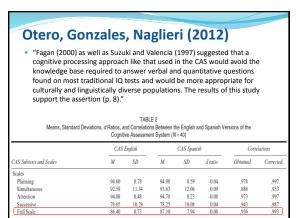


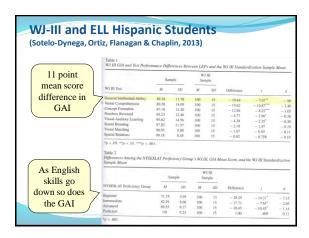






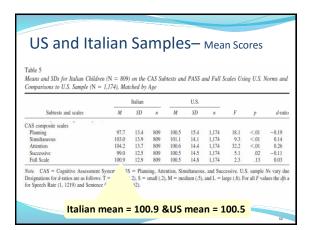


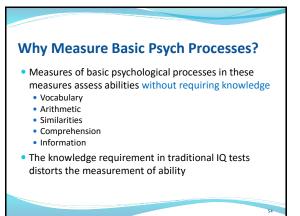


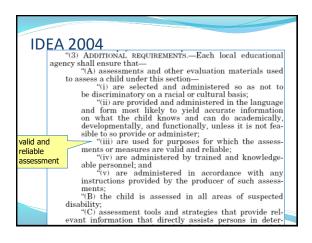


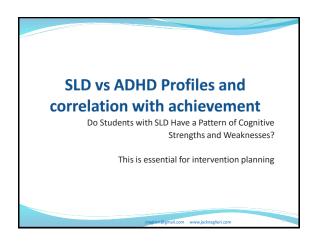


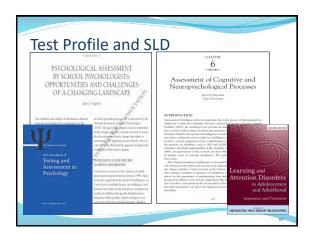


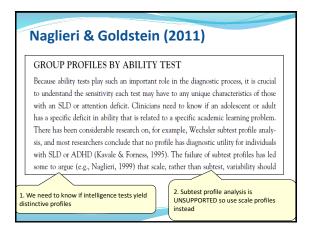


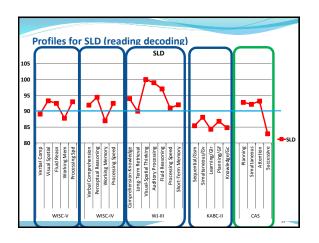


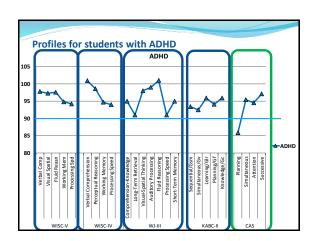


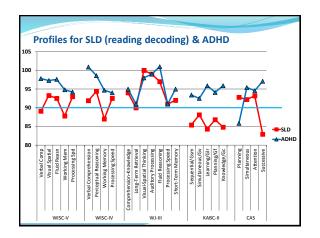


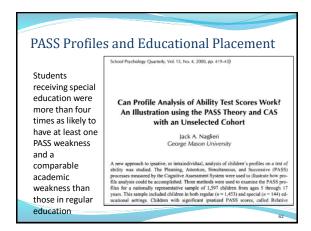


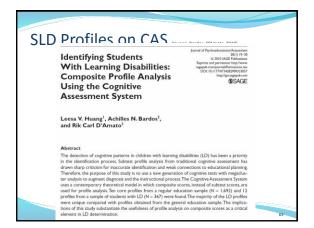


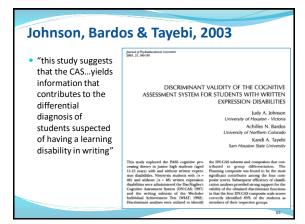


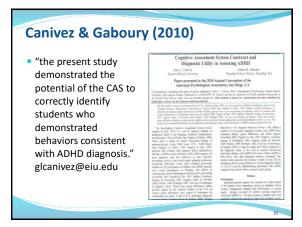


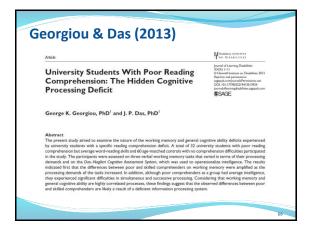












### **SLD vs ADHD Profiles**

- There needs to be evidence that intelligence tests which are widely used in school psychology yield specific profiles at the scale (theoretical) level.
  - Without such evidence their utility to identify a 'disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes' is limited
  - Subtest profile analysis is not advised
- The next important validity issue is correlation to achievement –
  - Do scores on the cognitive measure relate to academic achievement test scores?

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### IQ Correlations with Achievement?

- IQ scores correlate about .5 to .55 with achievement Intelligence (Brody, 1992)
- But traditional tests have achievement in them
- Naglieri (1999) summarized the correlations between several tests and achievement
  - The median correlation between each test's overall score and all achievement variables was obtained



Ability & Achievement (Naglieri, 1999) Tests with knowledge Tests with Little knowledge WISC-III DAS WJ-R K-ABC CAS FSIQ GCA MPC FS Cog .600 .700 Median r .590 .625 .630 2,400 888 1,284 2,636 1,600 WISC-3: WIAT Manual Table C.1 ages 6-16; WJ-R Technical Manual; CAS Interpretive Handbook; K-ABC Interpretative Manual; DAS Handbook. Increase =  $(r_1^2, -r_2^2)/r_1^2$ , where  $r_2^2$  = WISC-3 WIAT correlation sion: YOU DON'T need Verbal and Quantitative to correlate with ach

## **Correlations with Achievement**

- Next, a summary of ability test correlations with achievement EXCLUDING the scales that clearly require knowledge
- The average correlations of the SCALES with achievement and those without achievement were obtained to avoid criterion contamination...

**Correlations with Achievement**  Average correlations Verbal Comprehe between IQ Scales Visual Spatial Fluid Reasonii with total Working Memory Processing Speed Comprehension Kn Fluid Reasoning achievement scores .71 .52 .55 The strength of Short Term Working Me measuring basic psychological .50 processes as PASS is clear Note: All correlations are reported in the ability tests' manuals. Values per scale were averaged within each ability test using Fisher z transformations. WJ-III ACH N=1,600

### **Implications**

- Non-discriminatory data suggest that traditional IQ tests yield larger race and ethnic differences than tests of basic psychological processing.
  - Conclusion: KABC2 and CAS2
- Validity data suggests show not all tests yield profiles that differentiate SLD and ADHD, evidence needed for determining strengths and weaknesses suggests.
  - · Conclusion: CAS2 yields different profiles
  - And CAS correlates the highest with achievement.

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### Time to Think and Talk



3 minutes left

- Reactions?
- Which results were most surprising?
- Do the results match your experiences in the field?
- Do you still think vocabulary is a good way to measure IQ?
- Your thoughts...

### **Presentation Outline**

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- The Discrepancy/Consistency model
- Which tests to use to define a "basic psychological process"
   A neurocognitive theory will be suggested
- complex decision making (frontal lobes Planning)
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- visual/verbal spatial ability (Occipital/Parietal Simultaneous)
- visual/verbal sequencing (Temporal area Successive)
- Illustrative Case studies
  - How Discrepancy/Consistency yields more accurate eligibility determination
  - · How Discrepancy/Consistency leads to intervention planning.

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### **Defining basic psychological process**

- ▶ How did we identify 'basic psychological processes'?
  - We should use knowledge from cognitive and neuropsychology to construct a model to test
  - A well tested model can evolve into a THEORY of 'basic psychological processes'
  - We should not assign new labels to traditional IQ subtests
  - We should recognize the limitations of developing a theory from factor analysis – "a research program dominated by factor analyses of test intercorrelations is incapable of producing an explanatory theory of human intelligence"
     (Lohman & Ippel, 1993, p. 41)



### **Defining basic psychological process**

- The term 'basic psychological processes' is a modern term for ability (or intelligence) when traditional verbal tests that are confounded by knowledge (e.g., Information, Similarities, Arithmetic, Vocabulary) are excluded
- 'basic psychological processes' provide us the means to function and acquire knowledge and skills
  - Skills, like reading decoding, phonological coding, or math calculation, are not examples of a cognitive process
    - Skill = knowledge that is well learned and therefore can be performed with little thinking

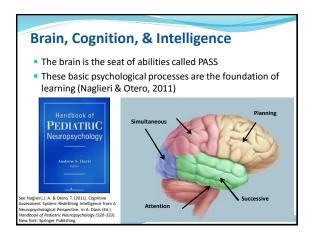
## **Cognition or Knowledge?**

- What does the student have to know to complete a task?
  - This is dependent on instruction
- How does the student have to think to complete a task?
  - This is dependent on the brain 'basic psychological processes'
- We must assess ability and achievement separately



# **Basic Psychological Processes**

Connecting IDEA with practice



### **PASS & Basic Psychological Processes**

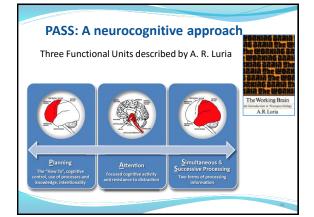
- Planning = THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU DO WHAT YOU DECIDE TO DO
- Attention = BEING ALERT AND RESIST DISTRACTIONS
- Simultaneous = GETTING THE BIG PICTURE
- Successive = FOLLOWING A SEQUENCE
- PASS theory is a modern way to measure neurocognitive abilities related to brain function

## What is a Basic Psychological Process?

- A specific cognitive process provides a unique kind of function
- A variety of cognitive processes is needed to meet the many demands of our complex environment
- A variety of cognitive processes gives us away of achieving the same goal using different types of or different combinations of processes (this is important for intervention planning).

A Neurocognitve approach to understanding learning and learning problems

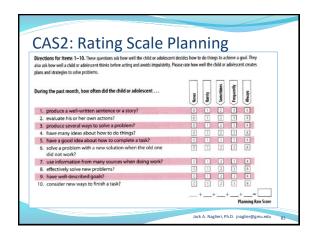


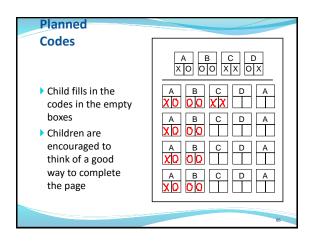


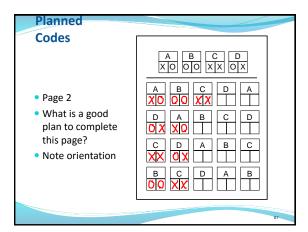
### **PASS Theory**

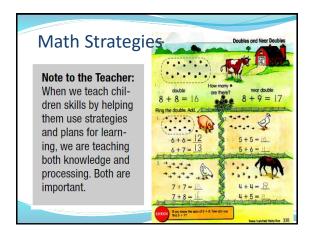
- Planning is a basic psychological process we use to determine, select, and apply efficient solutions to problems
  - problem solving
  - developing plans and using strategies
  - impulse control and self-control
  - control of processing
  - retrieval of knowledge

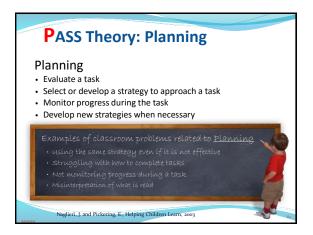
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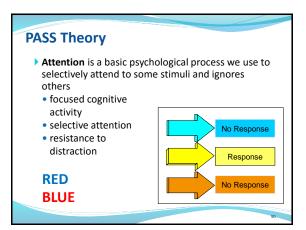


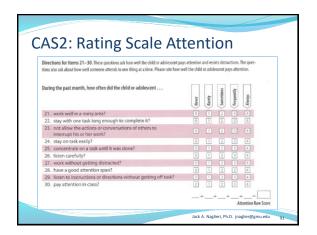


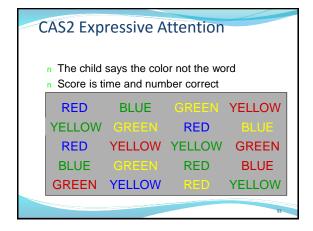


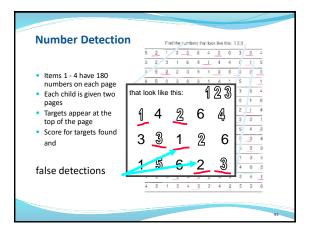


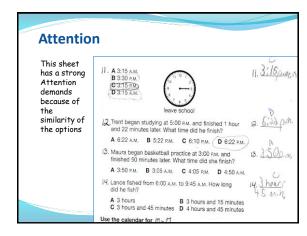




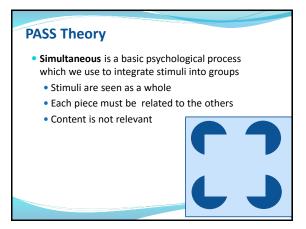


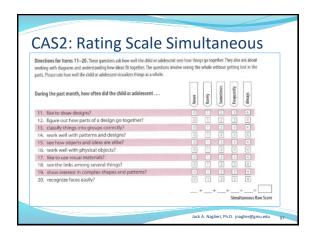


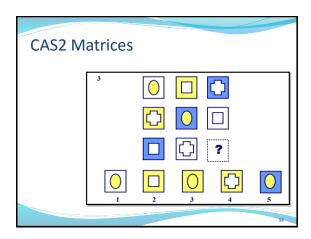


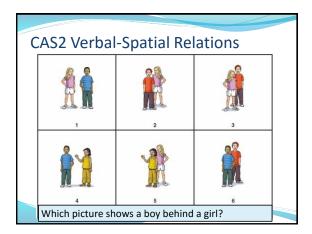


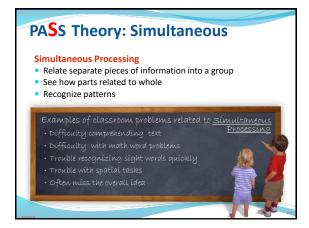


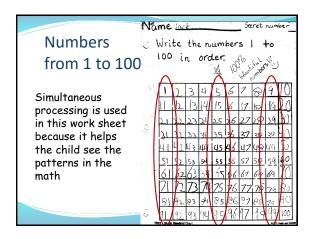


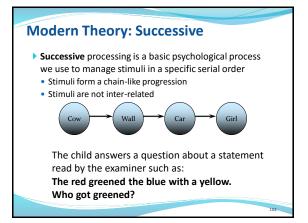


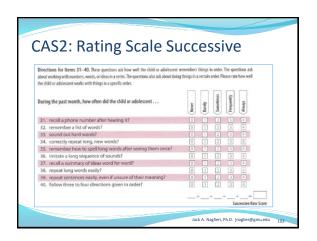






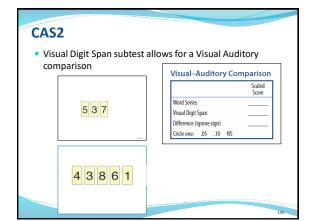


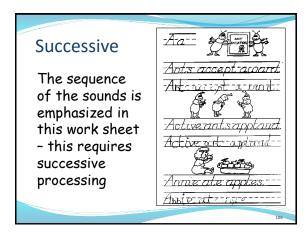


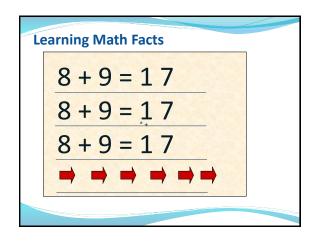


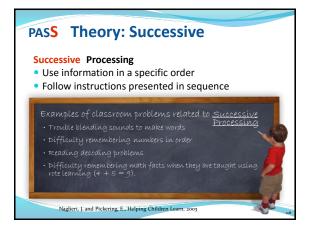
# Word Series, Sentence Repetition (Ages 5-7) or Sentence Questions (Ages 8-17) Word Series Child repeats high imagery single syllable words presented at 1 per second Sentence Repetition Child repeats sentences exactly as stated by the examiner such as: The red greened the blue with a yellow. Sentence Questions Child answers a question about a statement made by the examiner such as:

greened?

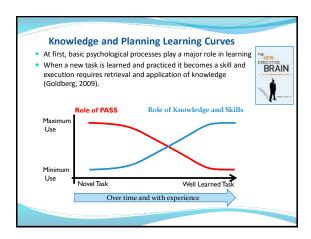


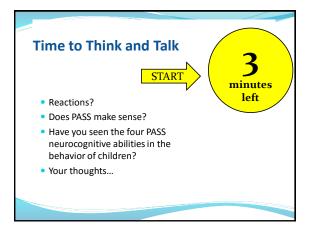












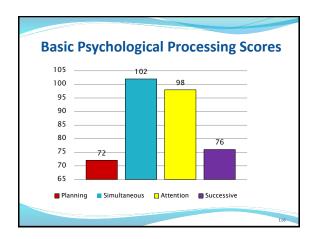
# Presentation Outline From achievement ability discrepancy to a pattern of strengths and weaknesses The Discrepancy/Consistency model Which tests to use to define a "basic psychological process" A neurocognitive theory will be suggested complex decision making (frontal lobes – Planning) focus and resistance to distractions (brain stem - Attention) visual/verbal spatial ability (Occipital/Parietal - Simultaneous) visual/verbal sequencing (Temporal area - Successive) Illustrative Case studies How Discrepancy/Consistency yields more accurate eligibility determination How Discrepancy/Consistency leads to intervention planning.

# The Case of Rocky – Discrepancy Consistency Model example From assessment to intervention

# The case of Rocky Nocky¹ is a real child with a real problem He lives in a large middle class school district a wide variety of services are available In first grade Rocky was performing significantly below grade benchmarks in reading, math, and writing. He received group reading instruction weekly and six months of individual reading instruction from a reading specialist He made little progress and was retained

## The case of Rocky

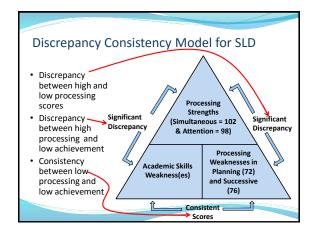
- By the middle of his second year in first grade Rocky was having difficulty with
- decoding, phonics, and sight word vocabulary; math problems, addition, fact families, and problem solving activities;
- · and focusing and paying attention."
- After two years of special team meetings and special reading instruction he is now working two grade levels below his peers and is having difficulty in reading, writing, and math
- A comprehensive evaluation was conducted
- Here is a look at just the evidence of a 'disorder in basic psychological processes'



### The case of Rocky

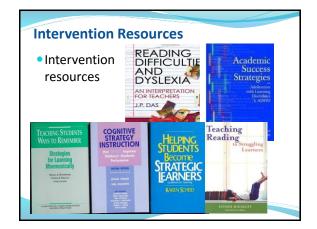
- He has intra-individual differences in cognitive processes that underlie his academic problems
- Rocky has a "disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes"

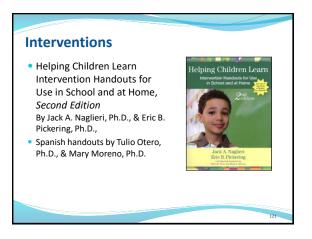
	Score	Diff	Significant	s/w
Planning	72	-15.0	yes	Weakness
Simultaneous	102	15.0	yes	
Attention	98	11.0	yes	
Successive	76	-11.0	yes	Weakness
PASS mean	87.0			
-				

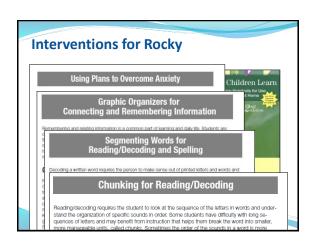


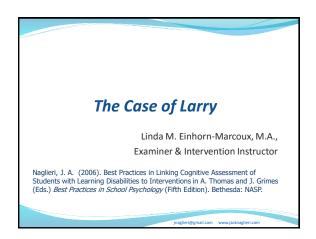
## The case of Rocky

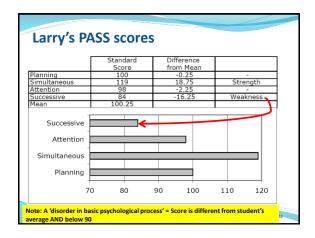
- ▶ Rocky meets the definition of SLD in IDEA
- He requires specialized intervention that takes into account his learning needs
- Intervention should emphasize the use of strategies and plans in all content areas
- Intervention should include ways to better work with serial information
- Rote memory and phonics instruction are illadvised

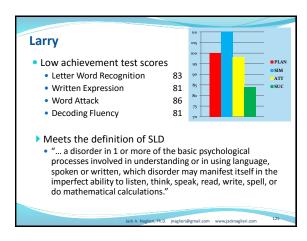


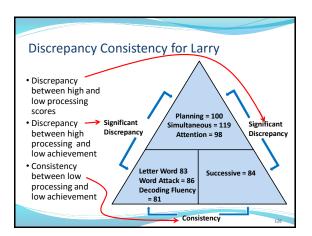


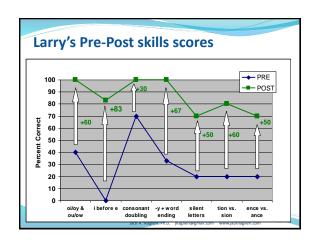


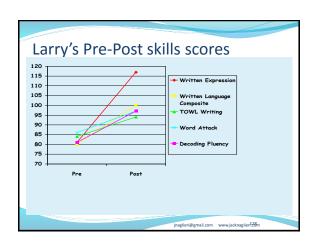


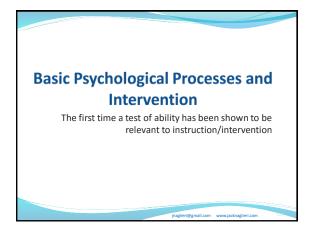


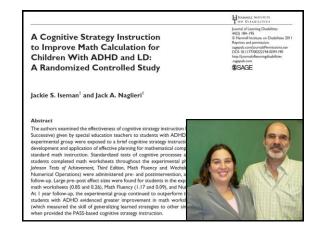


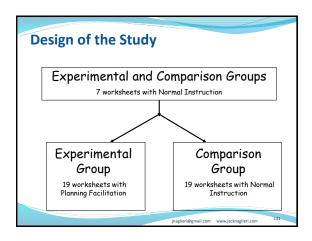


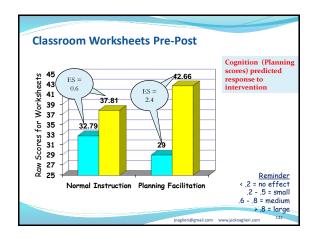


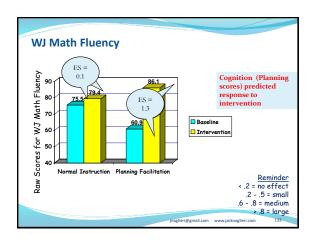


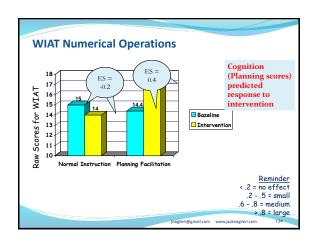






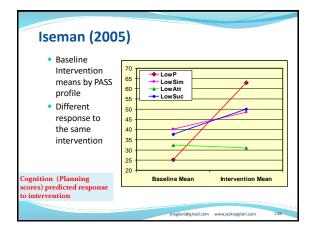






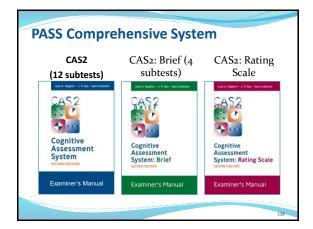
# One Year Follow-up

At 1-year follow-up, 27 of the students were retested on the WJ-III ACH Math Fluency subtest as part of the school's typical yearly evaluation of students. This group included 14 students from the comparison group and 13 students from the experimental group. The results indicated that the improvement of students in the experimental group (M=16.08, SD=19, d=0.85) was significantly greater than the improvement of students in the comparison group (M=3.21, SD=18.21, d=0.09).

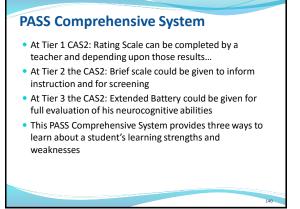


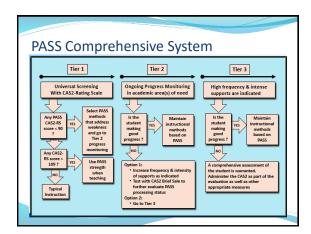
# **PASS Comprehensive System**

GOAL: Create a set of tools to measures PASS Theory for use across multiple settings and multiple tiers

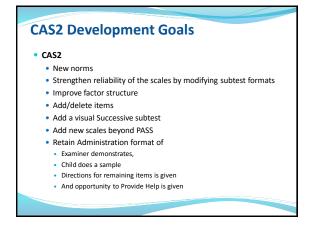


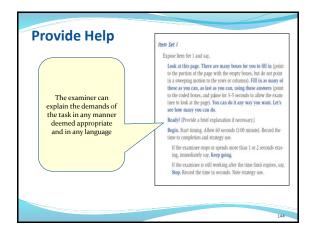


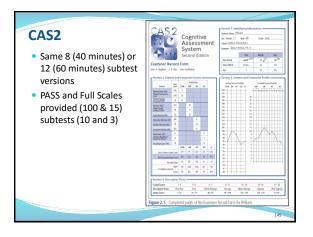


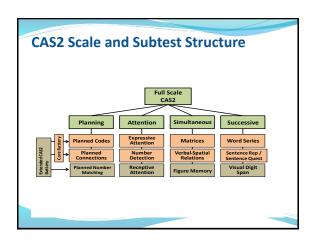


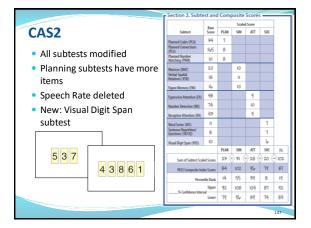


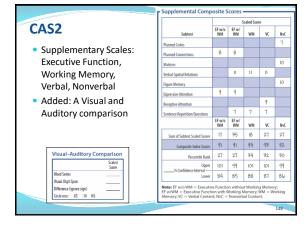






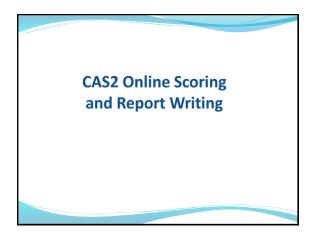


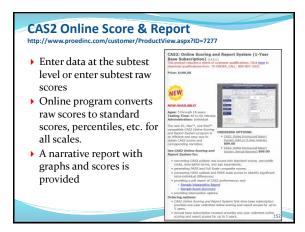


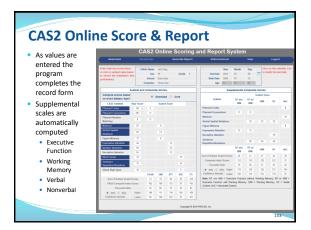


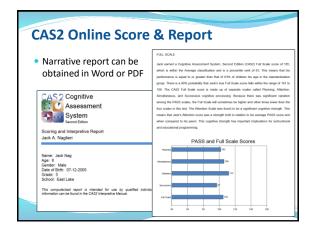
### **CAS2 Planning & Simultaneous** Planned Number Matrices Matching More items added · Variation on the Verbal-Spatial original version Relations Planned Codes More items added Variation on the Figure Memory original version More items added Planned Connections Additional items

# CAS2 Attention & Successive Expressive Attention No in color Number Detection New format Receptive Attention New format New subtest









FULL SCALE

Jack earned a Cognitive Assessment System, Second Edition (CAS2) Full Scale score of 105, which is within the Average classification and is a percentile rank of 63. This means that his performance is equal to or greater than that of 63% of children his age in the standardization group. There is a 90% probability that Jack's true Full Scale score falls within the range of 101 to 109. The CAS2 Full Scale score is made up of separate scales called Planning, Attention, Simultaneous, and Successive cognitive processing. Because there was significant variation among the PASS scales, the Full Scale will sometimes be higher and other times lower than the four scales in this test. The Attention Scale was found to be a significant cognitive strength. This means that Jack's Attention score was a strength both in relation to his average PASS score and when compared to his peers. This cognitive strength has important implications for instructional and educational programming.

