

**Ruiz, Maria Isolina, Ph.D.**

Title Department Office Number Extension Email Address	Assistant Professor Curriculum and Instruction (337) 482-1891 miruiz@louisiana.edu
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Doctor of Philosophy - Special Education</li><li>○ Master's in Science in Special Education, Southern Connecticut State University</li><li>○ Técnico Superior en Psicopedagogía (Special Education), Colegio Universitario de Psicopedagogía, Caracas, Venezuela.</li></ul> <p>Special Education/Significant Disabilities Teaching Certification Program, University of New Orleans</p>
Teaching Philosophy	<p>My teaching philosophy is founded on my experience as a special education teacher, strategist, and consultant. I believe that all students are capable of achieving, provided that they have the motivation to do so and are offered adequate support to reach their goals. I believe that the application of concepts and skills taught in class is essential to guarantee students' understanding of the principles of special education. However, I want these hands-on experiences to be connected to a solid theoretical foundation that allows pre-service and in-service teachers to make effective instructional decisions based on their knowledge of evidence-based practices. I use my experiences in the field of special education to ground my teaching and exemplify the relevance of the content taught in class and strive to teach my students the skills that I believe they will need to be effective special education teachers.</p> <p>I believe that setting high expectations for my students is the first step towards training special educators who will, in turn, have high expectations of children with disabilities. I seek to develop special educators who are proficient problem solvers. To achieve that, I encourage collegial discussions of controversial issues and the expression of differing ideas. By helping students connect with the more humane side of their future roles as special educators, I attempt to inspire them to become advocates for students with disabilities and their families. I understand that different students may respond to different teaching styles. Thus, I incorporate a variety of activities in my classes to</p>

	<p>ensure that all students have the opportunity to process the information. I am available to provide individualized support to my students as needed.</p>
<p>Bio</p>	<p>María Isolina Ruiz, Ph.D. began her career in special education in her native Venezuela, where she completed undergraduate studies in 1990. She earned a Master’s in science degree in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University in 1996 and completed a Doctor in Philosophy degree in Special Education at the University of New Orleans in December 2012.</p> <p>Dr. Ruiz has worked extensively with individuals with mild, moderate, and significant disabilities in the PK-12 age range as well as adults. She has experience as a training consultant and instructional strategist. Dr. Ruiz has presented at local, state, national, and international conferences on a wide array of special education issues including, but not limited to, teaching and behavior management strategies, Response-to-Intervention, assessment and instruction of English language learners, parental participation in the special education process, and the factors that influence student completion of Special Education graduate programs. Her research interests include effective instructional practices and interventions for teaching diverse learners, including students with disabilities and English language learners, factors that affecting parents’ decisions regarding the education of their children with disabilities, and professional development of pre-service and in-service teachers of diverse learners.</p> <p>Dr. Ruiz is an active member of multiple professional organizations and an advocate for students with disabilities and their families. She strongly believes in the right of all individuals to receive quality education and the role of teachers as agents of change in the education of students with disabilities. Dr. Ruiz has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette since January 2014.</p>
<p>Courses Taught</p>	<p>University of Louisiana at Lafayette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPED 483/ 453 Methods for Elementary Level Students with</li> <li>• Mild/Moderate Disabilities (3 credits, 4 contact hours, 1 undergraduate &amp; 14 graduate students, LE).</li> <li>• SPED 428 Language Arts Intervention for Students with</li> <li>• Disabilities</li> <li>• SPED 405 Foundations for Early Interventions</li> <li>• SPED484(G)/474(G) Assessment and Evaluation of</li> <li>• Elementary Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities</li> <li>• SPED422 Working with Families of Young Children</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPED 560 Internship in Elementary Special Education.</li> <li>• EDCI 485 Internship Alternative Certification in Early Intervention</li> <li>• SPED 420- Assessment of Young Children</li> <li>• SPED 502- Teaching the Exceptional Child</li> </ul> <p>University of New Orleans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDSP 6085- Foundations in Early Childhood Education and Early Intervention</li> </ul>
Research Interests	
Teaching Experience	<p>Assistant Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (January 2014 to date)</p> <p>Adjunct Faculty, University of New Orleans (Fall 2013-Fall 2017)</p>
Publications	<p>Ruiz, M. I., Flynn, L. (in press). Immigrant Latino parents' experiences and participation in the special education process. <i>Journal of Latinos and Education</i>.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Flynn, L., Giovingo, L., &amp; Wilson, P. G. (in press, Spring 2019). But...how helpful is that? Parents' viewpoints on the helpfulness of selected resources when making educational decisions for their young children with disabilities. <i>Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals, JAASEP</i>.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. R., Flynn-Wilson, L., Wilson, H., Pere, C (2015). <i>Retention of Undergraduate Students: Faculty Practices that are Most Supportive. American Council on Rural Special Education 2015 Conference Proceedings</i>. Ed. Rahn, N. L., Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University. Online.</p> <p>Flynn-Wilson, L. &amp; Ruiz, M.I. (2014). "Partnerships with Family Members to Meet the Needs of Their Children" <i>American Council on Rural Special Education 2014 Conference Proceedings</i>. Ed. Rahn, N. L. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University. Online.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Smith, T. N., Naquin, G., D'Atrio, C., &amp; Dellinger, A. (2014). Assessing the implementation fidelity of check-in check-out behavioral interventions in elementary and middle school. <i>Preventing School Failure</i>.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2012). Training school personnel on implementation of check-in check-out behavioral interventions. <i>NASP Communiqué</i>, 41 (1), 7-10.</p>

Presentations	<p>Ruiz, M. I., &amp; Gallagher, M. A. (2018, November). <i>Advocacy training for Louisiana teachers</i>. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Pensacola Beach, FL.</p> <p>Ruiz, M.I., &amp; Gallagher, M.A. (2018). <i>Supporting Teachers' Productive Beliefs and Practices for Working with English Learners in Math</i>. Roundtable Discussion at the 2018 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, New York, NY.</p> <p>Jordan, V., Green, M., Haj-Broussard, M., &amp; Ruiz, M.I. (2018). <i>Social Justice in the Time of Trump: Teaching for (in) a Diverse Society</i>. Panel Discussion at the Louisiana Educational Research Association, Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M.I., &amp; Keefer, N. (2018). <i>Say NO to Burnout: Selfcare Strategies for Special Education Professionals</i>. Oral Presentation at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Super Conference on Special Education. Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. (2017). <i>Change your Mindset, Change your Outcomes</i>. Oral presentation at the Louisiana Association for Teachers of Mathematics. Baton Rouge, LA. Louisiana AERA</p> <p>Ruiz, M.I., Clark, A. (2017). Exploring Louisiana's Educators for Teaching English Language Learners. Poster presented at the Louisiana Educational Research Association.</p> <p>Ruiz, M.I., Clark, A. (2017). <i>Exploring Educators Preparedness for Teaching English Language Learners with Disabilities</i>. Poster presented at the Learning Disability Association 55th Annual International Conference. Baltimore, MD.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). <i>Students' Perceptions of Factors that Facilitated or Delayed their Completion of a Doctoral Program in Special Education</i>. Paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual TED Conference, Techer Education Division, Council for Exceptional Children, Lexington, KY.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Wadsworth, D. (2016). <i>Learning is for everyone?</i> Paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual TED</p>
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Conference, Techer Education Division, Council for Exceptional Children, Lexington, KY.

Ruiz, M. I., Wadsworth, D. (2016). *Creating Space for Professional Dispositions Training within a Special Education Teacher Preparation Program*. Paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual TED Conference, Techer Education Division, Council for Exceptional Children, Lexington, KY.

Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). *Students' Perceptions of Factors that Facilitated or Delayed their Completion of a Doctoral Program in Special Education*. Poster presented at the Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Mobile, AL

Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). *Retention of Undergraduate Students: Practices that Make a Difference*. Paper presented at the Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Mobile, AL

Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). *Factors that Affect Completion of Doctoral Program in Special Education*. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo 2016, Saint Louis, MO.

Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2015). *Experiences of Early Childhood Special Educators While Implementing Academic Learning Standards in the Common Core Era*. Poster presented at the Division of Early Childhood 31st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families. Atlanta, GA.

Flynn-Wilson, L., Deris, A., DiCarlo, C., & Ruiz, M. I., (2015). *The Outdoors as a Learning Environment: Fostering Positive Inclusive Interactions*. Paper presented at the Division of Early Childhood 31st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families. Atlanta, GA.

Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2015). *Immigrant Latino Parent Participation in the Special Education Process*. Paper presented at the 25th Annual Conference for the National Association for Multicultural Education, New Orleans, LA.

Flynn-Wilson, L., Ruiz, M. I., Wilson, H., Pere, C (2015). *Retention of Undergraduate Students: Faculty Practices that*

	<p><i>are Most Supportive</i>. Paper presented at the 2015 ACRES American Council on Rural Special Education Conference. New Orleans, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., &amp; Blair, C. L. (2015). <i>Facilitating the Engagement of Non-English Speaking Parents in Their Children's Education</i>. Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Super Conference on Special Education. Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., &amp; Flynn-Wilson, L. (2015). <i>Latino Parents' Participation in the Special Education Process</i>. Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Super Conference on Special Education. Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Smith, T. N., &amp; Flynn-Wilson, L. (2014). <i>Factors that Favor or Delay Doctoral Program Completion in Special Education</i>. Poster presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Children with Special Needs and Their Families, St. Louis, MO.</p> <p>Flynn-Wilson, L., &amp; Ruiz, M. I. (2014). <i>Partnerships with Family Members to Meet the Needs of Their Children</i>. Paper presented at the 2014 ACRES American Council on Rural Special Education Conference, Tucson, AZ.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., &amp; Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013). <i>Experiences of Immigrant Latino Parents While Navigating the American Special Education System</i>. Paper presented at the DEC's 29th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, San Francisco, CA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. &amp; Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013). <i>Parental Participation in the Special Education Process: Understanding the Factors that Really Make a Difference for Latino Parents</i>. Paper presented at the 2013 Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. &amp; Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013). <i>Factors Influencing the Participation of Latinos in their Children's Special Education Process</i>. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo 2013, San Antonio, TX.</p>
Grants	2017-2018 Improving Teachers' Mathematics Instruction for English Language Learners; Louisiana Initiatives Program (LaSIP), Louisiana Board of Regents; \$217,987.00 - Principal Investigator

	<p>2017-2022 English Transformation Center for Sustainable and Scalable Success, National Professional Development Program, US Department of Education; 453,483.00 per year- Co-Principal Investigator</p>
Conferences Attended	
Professional Memberships	<p>American Education Research Association (AERA)</p> <p>National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET)</p> <p>Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division of Early Childhood (DEC)</li> <li>• Division of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL)</li> <li>• Division of Learning Disabilities (DLD)</li> <li>• Teacher Education Division (TED)</li> </ul> <p>National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME)</p> <p>Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL)</p> <p>Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)</p> <p>Learning Disabilities Association (LDA)</p>
Awards	<p>2015 Summer Research Award, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2015</p> <p>College of Education 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Distinguished Alumna in Special Education, University of New Orleans, 2013.</p> <p>2013 Outstanding Doctoral Graduate, Department of Special Education and Habilitative Services Faculty Awards, University of New Orleans.</p> <p>Best Research Poster Award, University Centers on Disabilities 2011 Conference, Washington, DC.</p>
Additional Skills	<p>Fluent in English and Spanish</p>
Dissertation	<p>Factors that Influence the Participation of Immigrant Latino Parents in the Special Education Process of their Children with Disabilities.</p> <p>Advisor: Linda Flynn, Ph.D.</p>

Other Professional Experience	
Service	Vice-President, Louisiana Division of Early Childhood, Council for Exceptional Children (August 2015- to date)  Diversity Chair, Louisiana Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (Jan 2014- to date)