

MARIA ISOLINA RUIZ

Title Department Office Number Extension Email Address	Assistant Professor Department of Curriculum and Instruction Girard 108D (337) 482-1891 maria.ruiz@louisiana.edu
Education	Ph.D. in Special Education, with an emphasis in Early Intervention (12/ 2012); University of New Orleans M.S. in Special Education, with an emphasis in Intellectual Disabilities (05/1996); Southern Connecticut State University
Teaching Philosophy	<p>Teaching Philosophy My philosophy of education is founded on my experience as a special education teacher, consultant, and strategist. I believe that all students can achieve, provided that they have the motivation to do so and are offered adequate support to reach their goals. I understand that different students may respond to different teaching styles. Therefore, I try to incorporate a variety of activities in my classes to ensure that all students can process the information, and I am available to assist my students as needed.</p> <p>The application of concepts is essential to guarantee students' understanding of the principles of special education.</p> <p>However, I want these hands-on experiences to be based on a solid theoretical foundation that allows preservice teachers to make effective decisions based on their knowledge of evidence-based practices. I use my experiences in special education to ground my teaching and exemplify the relevance of the content taught in class. I strive to teach my students the skills I believe they will need to be effective special education teachers. 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 train 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.</p>

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<p>Bio</p>	<p>María Isolina Ruiz, PhD. 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 and adults. She has experience as a training consultant and instructional strategist. Dr. Ruiz has presented at local, state, national, and international conferences on an array of special education issues including, but not limited to, teaching and behavior management strategies, Response-to-Intervention, assessment 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 the implementation fidelity of school- based behavioral and academic interventions, parent-school collaboration, effective teaching strategies used with students with disabilities, and factors affecting parents’ decisions regarding their children’s education and participation in the special education process.</p> <p>Dr. Ruiz is an active member of multiple professional organizations and an advocate for students with disabilities and their families.</p> <p>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>SPED 422 Working with Families of Young Children with Disabilities SPED 484 Assessment of Elementary Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities SPED 474 Assessment of Secondary Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities</p>

	<p>SPED 483 Methods for Elementary Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities SPED 473 Methods for Elementary Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities SPED 511 Mathematics Intervention for Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities SPED 428 English Language Arts for Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities SPED 405 Foundations of Early Intervention SPED-420 (G)- Reading, Curriculum, and Methods in Early Intervention</p>
Teaching Experience	<p>January 2014 -Assistant Professor of Special Education University of Louisiana at Lafayette</p> <p>August 2013-- Adjunct Faculty, Special Education December 2017 University of New Orleans</p>
Publications	<p>Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L., Giovingo, L., & Wilson, P. G. (2019). But...how helpful is that? Parents’ viewpoints on the helpfulness of selected resources when making educational decisions for their young children with disabilities. Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals, JAASEP.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Smith, T. N., Naquin, G., D’Atrio, C., & Dellinger, A. (2014). Assessing the implementation fidelity of Check-in, Check-out behavioral interventions in elementary and middle school. Preventing School Failure.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L., Wilson, H., Pere, C. (2015). Retention of undergraduate students: Faculty practices that are most supportive. In N. L. Rahn. American Council on Rural Special Education 2015 Conference Proceedings. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University.</p> <p>Flynn-Wilson, L., & Ruiz, M.I. (2014). Partnerships with family members to meet the needs of their children. In N. L. Rahn. American Council on Rural Special Education 2014 Conference Proceedings. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University.</p> <p>OTHER PUBLICATIONS</p>

	<p>Ruiz, M. I. (2018, Fall). Understanding the Power of Neuroplasticity and Mindset When Teaching Students with Diverse Learning Needs. Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2015, Fall). So, why do we need to know about diversity? Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Blair, C. (2015, Spring). Facilitating engagement of culturally and linguistically diverse parents in the education of their children with disabilities. Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2014, Fall). Avoiding disproportionality of English language learners in special education. Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2014, Summer). Instructional strategies for English language learners with disabilities. Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2012). Training school personnel on implementation of Check-in-, Check-out behavioral interventions. National Association of School Psychologists Communiqué, 41 (1), 7-10.</p>
Presentations	<p>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Keefer, N. (2019). Don't quit yet! Strategies for reducing stress and preventing special education teacher burnout. Talk presented at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Super-conference 38, Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M.I., Haj-Broussard, M., & Patrick, A. (2018, November). Two-way immersion for all: Facilitating parental involvement through language instruction. Paper presented at La Cosecha 23rd Dual Language Annual Conference, Santa Fe, NM.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Gallagher, M. A. (2018, November). Developing teachers for teaching math to</p>

	<p>English learners. Paper presented at Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Pensacola Beach, FL.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Gallagher, M. A. (2018, November). Advocacy training for Louisiana teachers. Paper presented at Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Pensacola Beach, FL.</p> <p>Ruiz, M.I., & Gallagher, M.A. (2018). Supporting teachers' productive beliefs and practices for working with English learners in math. Paper presented at American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.</p> <p>Ruiz, M.I., & Keefer, N. (2018). Say NO to burnout: Self-care strategies for special education professionals. Paper presented at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Super-conference 37, Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. (2017). Change your mindset, change your outcomes. Talk presented at the Louisiana Association for Teachers of Mathematics, Baton Rouge, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). Students' perceptions of factors that facilitated or delayed their completion of a doctoral program in special education. Paper presented at the 30th Annual TED Conference, Teacher Education Division, Council for Exceptional Children, Lexington, KY.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Wadsworth, D. (2016). Learning is for everyone? Talk presented at the 30th Annual TED Conference, Teacher Education Division, Council for Exceptional Children, Lexington, KY.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Wadsworth, D. (2016). Creating space for professional dispositions training within a special education teacher preparation program. Paper presented at the 30th Annual TED Conference, Teacher Education Division, Council for Exceptional Children, Lexington, KY.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). Retention of undergraduate students: Practices that make a</p>
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	<p>difference. Paper presented at the Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Mobile, AL</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L. (2016). Factors that affect the completion of a doctoral program in special education. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, Saint Louis, MO.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Flynn-Wilson, L., Ruiz, M. I., Wilson, H., Pere, C. (2015). Retention of undergraduate students: Faculty practices that are most supportive. Paper presented at the American Council on Rural Special Education Conference, New Orleans, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Blair, C. L. (2015). Facilitating the engagement of non-English speaking parents in their children’s education. Talk presented at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Super Conference 34, Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Flynn-Wilson, L. (2015). Latino parents' participation in the special education process. Paper presented at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Super-conference 34, Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Flynn-Wilson, L., & Ruiz, M. I. (2014). Partnerships with family members to meet the needs of their children. Paper presented at the American Council on Rural Special Education Conference, Tucson, AZ.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013). Experiences of immigrant Latino parents while</p>
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	<p>navigating the American special education system. Paper presented at the Division for Early Childhood 29th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and their Families, San Francisco, CA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013). Parental Participation in the Special Education Process: Understanding the Factors that Really Make a Difference for Latino Parents. Paper presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Flynn-Wilson, L (2013). Factors influencing the participation of Latinos in their children’s special education process. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, San Antonio, TX.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Flynn, L. (2011). Families’ perceptions of helpful experiences while learning about the special education system. Paper presented at the Division for Early Childhood 27th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, National Harbor, MD.</p> <p>Smith, T., & Ruiz, M. I. (2011). Behavior support strategies for the early childhood classroom. Paper presented at the 9th Biennial International Conference on Children and Youth with Behavioral Disorders, New Orleans, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I., & Smith, T. (2011). A model for implementing Response to Intervention with English language learners. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, Baltimore, MD.</p> <p>Smith, T., & Ruiz, M. I. (2011). I can play too: Early childhood inclusion strategies correlated with ECERS. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, Baltimore, MD.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2011). Recommendations for implementing Response to Intervention with English</p>
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language learners. Talk presented at the Learning Disabilities Association 48th Annual International Conference, Jacksonville, FL.

Ruiz, M. I., & Smith, T. (2010). Considerations When Implementing Response to Intervention with English Language Learners. Talk presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo 2010, Nashville, TN.

Ruiz, M. I., & Smith, T. (2009). Guidelines for training school personnel on the implementation of Check in-Check out. Paper presented at the 8th Biennial International Conference on Children and Youth with Behavioral Disorders, Denver, CO.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Ruiz, M. I., & Clark, A. (2017). Exploring Louisiana's Educators for Teaching English Language Learners. Poster presented at the Louisiana Educational Research Association Conference. Lafayette, LA.

Ruiz, M. I., & Clark, A. (2017). Exploring educators' preparedness for teaching English language learners with disabilities. Poster presented at the Learning Disability Association 55th Annual International Conference. Baltimore, MD.

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. (2015). Experiences of Early Childhood Special Educators While Implementing Academic Learning Standards in the Common Core Era. Division of Early Childhood 31st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families. Atlanta, GA.

Ruiz, M. I., Smith, T. N., & Flynn-Wilson, L. (2014). Factors that Favor or Delay Doctoral

	<p>Program Completion in Special Education. 30th Annual International Conference on Children with Special Needs and Their Families, St. Louis, MO.</p> <p>Giovingo, L. K., Flynn, L., Ruiz, M. I., Aguilar, E., Gary, L., Rushing, E., & Wilson, P. (2011). Experiences that facilitate parent participation in the educational decision-making process of young children with disabilities. Association of University Centers on Disabilities Conference, Washington, DC.</p> <p>Smith, T., & Ruiz, M. I. (2011). I can play too: Early childhood inclusion strategies correlated with ECERS. Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, Baltimore, MD.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2011). Implementing Response to Intervention with English language learners. Teachers of English for Students of Other Languages TESOL Annual Convention and Exhibit, New Orleans, LA.</p> <p>Ruiz, M. I. (2010). Implementation fidelity of Check in-Check out at a district-wide level. Poster presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.</p> <p>PANEL</p> <p>Bienvenu, M., Bernard, A., & Jordan, M., & Ruiz, M. I. (2019). Outspoken: Teachers' perceptions and attitudes of advocacy. Panel leader at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Super-conference 38, Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>Jordan, V., Green, M., Haj-Broussard, M., & Ruiz, M.I. (2018). Social justice in the time of Trump: Teaching for (in) a diverse society. Discussant at the Louisiana Educational Research Association Conference, Lafayette, LA.</p>
Grants	English Transformation Center for Sustainable and Scalable Success, National Professional Development Program, US Department of Education; 453,483.00 per year- Co-Principal Investigator (2017 - 2020).

	Improving Teachers' Mathematics Instruction for English Language Learners; Louisiana Initiatives Program (LaSIP), Louisiana Board of Regents; \$217,987.00 - Principal Investigator (2017 - 2018).
Conferences Attended	
Professional Memberships	<p>American Education Research Association (AERA) Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of Early Childhood (DEC) • Division of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL) • Division of Learning Disabilities (DLD) • Teacher Education Division (TED) <p>Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET) Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL)</p>
Awards	
Additional Skills	Fluent in English and Spanish
Dissertation	<p>Factors that Influence the Participation of Immigrant Latino Parents in the Special Education Process of their Children with Disabilities Advisor: Linda Flynn, Ph.D.</p>
Other Professional Experience	
Service	<p><i>JOURNAL REVIEWER</i></p> <p>Journal of Latinos and Education (2018)</p> <p>Young Exceptional Children (2012 – 2015)</p> <p>International Journal of Critical Pedagogy (2015)</p> <p><i>CONFERENCE PROPOSAL REVIEWER</i></p> <p>National Association of Multicultural Education Conference (2018)</p> <p>TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo (2017)</p> <p>TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo (2016)</p>

	<p>Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children Conference (2015)</p> <p>American Educational Research Association Conference (2013)</p> <p><i>COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERSHIP</i></p> <p>Louisiana Division of Early Childhood, Council for Exceptional Children, President (2016 – present)</p> <p>Louisiana Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children, Diversity Chair (2014 - 2018)</p> <p>Louisiana Division of Early Childhood, Council for Exceptional Children, Vice-president (2015)</p> <p>Student Editorial Board, Young Exceptional Children Journal Student Editorial Board (2012- 2013)</p> <p><i>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</i></p> <p>Why Response to Intervention? A workshop for English as a second language teachers and paraprofessionals. Talk presented for the Jefferson Parish Public Schools English Language Acquisition Department, Marrero, LA. (2010).</p> <p>Differentiating instruction for English as a second language students: Workshop for general, special and English-as-a-second-language teachers and paraprofessionals. Talk presented for the Jefferson Parish Public Schools English Language Acquisition Department, Metairie, LA. (2009).</p> <p>Teaching strategies that work with students with ADHD. Talk presented at the Jefferson Parish Inclusion Conference, Metairie, LA. (2009).</p>
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