

CURRICULUM VITAE

Maria Isolina Ruiz

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EDUCATION

- 2012 University of New Orleans, Ph.D.
Major: Special Education, Early Intervention.
- 1996 Southern Connecticut State University
Major: Special Education, Intellectual Disabilities
- 1990 Colegio Universitario de Psicopedagogía
Major: Special Education, Intellectual Disabilities and Emotional Disorders

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- January 2014 - Assistant Professor of Special Education
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- August 2013-- Adjunct Faculty
December 2017 University of New Orleans

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).

AWARDS

Summer Research Award, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2015)

College of Education 50th Anniversary Distinguished Alumna in Special Education, University of New Orleans (2013).

Outstanding Doctoral Graduate, Department of Special Education and Habilitative Services
Faculty Awards, University of New Orleans (2013).

Best Research Poster Award, University Centers on Disabilities Conference, Washington,
DC. (2011).

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Ruiz, M. I., Flynn-Wilson, L., Giovingo, L., & 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. *Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals, JAASEP*.

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*.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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.

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.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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*.

Ruiz, M. I. (2015, Fall). So, why do we need to know about diversity? *Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter*.

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*.

Ruiz, M. I. (2014, Fall). Avoiding disproportionality of English language learners in special education. *Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter*.

Ruiz, M. I. (2014, Summer). Instructional strategies for English language learners with disabilities. Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter.

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.

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW

Ruiz, M. I., Flynn, L. (accepted pending revisions). Immigrant Latino parents' experiences and participation in the special education process. *Journal of Latinos and Education*.

Ruiz, M. I., Smith, T. N., & Sharpton, W. (under review). Using social narratives in an inclusive kindergarten classroom: A higher and elementary education collaborative action research effort. *Educational Action Research*.

Ruiz, M. I. (under review). Beyond traditional Response to Intervention: Helping rural educators understand English learners' needs. *Rural Special Education Quarterly*.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Gallagher, M. A., & **Ruiz, M. I.** (in preparation). Teaching mathematics to English Language Learners: Preparing pre-service and in-service teachers. In L. C. de Oliveira & M. Civil (Eds.). *Teaching Mathematics to English Language Learners: Preparing Pre-Service and In-Service Teachers*. London, United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan.

Ruiz, M. I., Flynn, L. (in preparation). Understanding what facilitates completion of doctoral programs in the special education: Insights from graduates, ABD, and doctoral students.

Flynn, L., & **Ruiz, M. I.** (in preparation). Students' perceptions of faculty actions that help them get through their undergraduate studies in the field of education.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

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.

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.

- Ruiz, M. I., & Gallagher, M. A.** (2018, November). Developing teachers for teaching math to English learners. Paper presented at *Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association*, Pensacola Beach, FL.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ruiz, M.** (2017). Change your mindset, change your outcomes. Talk presented at the *Louisiana Association for Teachers of Mathematics*, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 the completion of a doctoral program in special education. Paper presented at the *Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo*, Saint Louis, MO.
- 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 are most supportive. Paper presented at the *American Council on Rural Special Education Conference*, New Orleans, LA.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ruiz, M. I., & Flynn-Wilson, L. (2013).** Experiences of immigrant Latino parents while 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

Ruiz, M. I. (2011). Recommendations for implementing Response to Intervention with English 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 Program Completion in Special Education*. 30th Annual International Conference on Children with Special Needs and Their Families, St. Louis, MO.

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.

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.

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.

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.

PANEL

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.

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.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Ruiz, M. I. (2012). Working with culturally and linguistically diverse children with disabilities and their families. Talk presented for the *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (LEND) Training Program, Human Development Center, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center*, New Orleans, LA

Ruiz, M. I. (2011). Struggling English language learners: Difference or disability? Talk presented at the *Teaching without Borders: 2011 Jefferson Parish Inclusion Conference*, Kenner, LA.

Nata, L., & **Ruiz**, M. I. (2011). Una buena I.D.E.A. para Luisiana / A good I.D.E.A. for Louisiana. Talk presented at the *Families Helping Families Conferencia para Familias Hispanas/Latinas (Hispanic /Latino Parent Conference) FUTUROS 2011*, Covington, LA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Education Research Association (AERA)

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

- Division of Early Childhood (DEC)
- Division of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL)
- Division of Learning Disabilities (DLD)

- Teacher Education Division (TED)

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)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

JOURNAL REVIEWER

Journal of Latinos and Education (2018)

Young Exceptional Children (2012 – 2015)

International Journal of Critical Pedagogy (2015)

CONFERENCE PROPOSAL REVIEWER

National Association of Multicultural Education Conference (2018)

TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo (2017)

TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo (2016)

Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children Conference (2015)

American Educational Research Association Conference (2013)

COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Louisiana Division of Early Childhood, Council for Exceptional Children, President
(2016 – present)

Louisiana Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children, Diversity Chair (2014 - 2018)

Louisiana Division of Early Childhood, Council for Exceptional Children, Vice-president
(2015)

Student Editorial Board, Young Exceptional Children Journal Student Editorial Board
(2012- 2013)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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).

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).

Teaching strategies that work with students with ADHD. Talk presented at the *Jefferson Parish Inclusion Conference*, Metairie, LA. (2009).

LANGUAGES

English, proficient in speaking, reading, and writing

Spanish, proficient in speaking, reading, and writing