







#### IV. Summary of Factors in Decision-Making

In summary, there are multiple factors that need to be considered when making a decision about students' educational settings and programs. Disproportionality, the over representation of ELLs/MLLs in special education, varies by ethnicities, regions and cities. A potential cause may be that ELLs/MLLs receive little to no native language instruction; most of their instruction is in English. Another cause may be that educators have not received appropriate professional development in second language acquisition and characteristics of MLL/ELLs and learning disabilities. Conversely, some schools are overly cautious about identifying ELLs/MLLs for special education (Butterfield and Read, 2016).

Leading to the future, and to help mitigate disproportionality, schools may want to consider utilizing the 5 C's, factors that should be viewed through a language acquisition lens.

**1. Collaboration & Capacity Building:** Educators & families need to meet on an ongoing basis, sharing and deepening their knowledge, so that there isn't a quick rush to judgment for a student referral to special education. Collaborative teamwork is essential to making equitable decisions about ELLs/MLLs.

**2. Continuum of services:** Schools must offer a broad ranges of curricula options, bilingual and/or ENL services within a least restrictive environment (LRE) so that every student is afforded ample opportunity to learn and succeed.

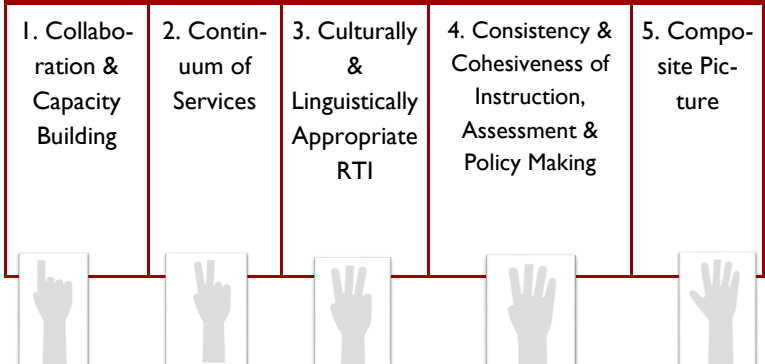
**3. Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate RTI:** Culturally responsive instruction within the core and in tiered RTI will afford students multiple opportunities for linguistic growth.

**4. Consistency & Cohesiveness of Instruction, Assessment & Policy Making:** Policy and practice need to promote strong coordination and collaboration, creating a unified system and effective instruc-

tion for all students.

**5. Composite picture:** Data collection and analysis, from multiple sources over time, including interviews with families, teachers and students, will give an overall picture which to base decision making.

#### THE 5 Cs: FIVE FACTORS TO CONSIDER when MAKING DECISIONS about STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS & PROGRAMS



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***With thoughtful and purposeful analysis of our MLLs programs and settings, we should ultimately eliminate the disproportionate placement that impacts our students' success.***

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Information and Resources

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Website: [NYC Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network \(RBE-RN\)](http://www.nycrbn.org)

