

Disability Determination / Special Education Categories

**By process of an educational evaluation, a child may meet eligibility criteria in any of the following areas of impairment:*

Autism- a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age 3, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Cognitive Disability- significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, which adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Deaf-Blindness- concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

Deafness- a hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Developmental Delay (DD)- delays in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development (may include children from three through nine years of age).

Emotional Disability (ED)- a condition exhibiting an inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers; inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances; a general pervasive mood of anxiety or unhappiness or depression; or a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

Hearing Impairment (HI)- an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance but that is not included under the definition of deafness.

Multiple Disabilities- concomitant impairments which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments.

Orthopedic Impairment- a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Other Health Impairment (OHI)- having limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened sensitivity to environmental stimuli, which results in limited alertness within the educational environment and adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Specific Learning Disability (SLD)- a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations.

Speech and/or Language Impairment (SPL)- a communication disorder, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)- an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Visual Impairment (VI)- an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance.