

Disability Definitions:

Intellectual Disability (formerly Mental Retardation)

Significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently at the same time with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Autistic-like

A developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three that adversely affects educational performance.

Characteristics often associated with autism are engaging in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to changes in daily routines or the environment, and unusual responses to sensory experiences.

The term does not apply if a child's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has a serious emotional disturbance as defined above.

Asperger Syndrome

Asperger syndrome is the term applied to the mildest and highest functioning end of what is known as the spectrum of pervasive developmental disorders or the Autism spectrum. Like other conditions along that spectrum it is felt to represent a neurologically-based disorder of development, most often of unknown cause, in which there are deviations or abnormalities in three broad aspects of development: social relatedness and social skills, the use of language for communicative purposes, and certain behavioral and stylistic characteristics involving repetitive or perseverative features and a limited but intense range of interests.

Hard of Hearing

An impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance but is not included under the definition of 'deafness.'

Deaf

A hearing impairment so severe that the child cannot understand what is being said even with a hearing aid.

Emotional Disturbance

Diagnosis by a medical doctor is often though not always necessary to determine this disability. It is very difficult to define specific characteristics for an emotionally disturbed student. Each has his/her own unique set of behaviors and problems.

Orthopedic Impairment

Means a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

The term includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly e.g. clubfoot, absence of some member, etc., impairments caused by disease e.g. poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, etc., and impairments from other causes e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures.

Traumatic Brain Injury

The term includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly e.g. clubfoot, absence of some member, etc., impairments caused by disease e.g. poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, etc., and impairments from other causes e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures.

The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech.

Deaf-Blindness

Concomitant simultaneous 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.

Visual Impairment

An impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

Speech or Language Impairment

Communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Other Health Impaired

Having limited strength, vitality or alertness, due to chronic or acute health problems such as a heart condition, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, nephritis, asthma, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, epilepsy, lead poisoning, leukemia, or diabetes, which adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Specific Learning Disability

A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations.

The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.

The term does not include children who have learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor handicaps, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.