

All schools must follow certain procedures (written in state and federal law) to decide if a child is eligible for special education. These procedures include referral, consent to be evaluated, evaluation, placement, and the writing of an Individual Education Program (IEP). A child with a disability must meet eligibility criteria under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The following are disabilities under IDEA:

- **Autism (A):** Autism means a developmental disability significantly affecting a child's social interactions and verbal and non-verbal communication that adversely affect learning and educational performance.
- **Cognitive Disability (CD):** Cognitive disability means significantly sub average intellectual functioning that exists concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and that adversely affects educational performance.
- **Hearing Impairment (HI):** Hearing Impairment, including deafness, means a significant impairment in hearing, with or without amplification, whether permanent or chronically fluctuating, that significantly adversely affects a child's education performance including academic performance, speech perception and production, or language and communication skills.
- **Speech or Language Impairment (SL):** Speech or language impairment means an impairment of speech or sound production, voice, fluency, or language that significantly affects educational performance or social, emotional or vocational development.
- **Orthopedic Impairment (OI):** Orthopedic impairment means a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance (may include congenital anomaly, impairments caused by disease, and other causes such as cerebral palsy, amputations, fractures or burns).
- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):** Traumatic brain injury means 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.
- **Emotional Behavioral Disability (EBD):** Emotional behavior disability means social, emotional or behavioral functioning that so departs from generally accepted, age appropriate ethnic or cultural norms that it adversely affects a child's academic progress, social relationship, personal adjustment, classroom adjustments, self-care or vocational skills.
- **Specific Learning Disability (SLD):** Specific learning disability means a severe learning problem due to a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in acquiring, organizing or expressing information that manifests itself in school as an impaired ability to listen, reason, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations, despite appropriate instruction in the general education curriculum.
- **Other Health Impairment (OHI):** Other health impairment means having limited strength, vitality or alertness, due to chronic or acute health problems.
- **Significant Developmental Delay-ages 3-6 only (SDD):** Significant developmental delay means children, ages 3, 4, and 5 years of age or below compulsory school attendance age, who are experiencing significant delays in the areas of physical, cognition, communication, social-emotional or adaptive development.