



## **Classification Categories**

**Auditorily Impaired:** means an inability to hear within normal limits due to physical impairment or dysfunction of auditory mechanisms. An audiological evaluation by a specialist qualified in the field of audiology and a speech and language evaluation by a certified speech-language specialist are required.

**Autistic** means a pervasive developmental disability, which significantly impacts verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction that adversely affects a student's educational performance. Onset is generally evident before age three.

**Cognitively impaired** means a disability that is characterized by significantly below average general cognitive functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior.

**Communication Impaired** means a language disorder in the areas of morphology, syntax, semantics and/or pragmatics/discourse, which adversely affects a student's educational performance and is not due primarily to an auditory impairment.

**Emotionally Regulation Impairment** means a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a student's educational performance due to:

1. An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors;
2. An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers.
3. Inappropriate types of behaviors or feelings under normal circumstances.
4. A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or
5. A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

**Multiply Disabled** means the presence of two or more disabling conditions, the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in a program designed solely to address one of the impairments.

**Deaf/blindness** means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational problems that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for students with deafness or students with blindness.

**Orthopedically Impaired** means a disability characterized by a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a student's educational performance.



**Other Health Impaired** means a disability characterized by having limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness with respect to the educational environment, due to chronic or acute health problems.

**Preschool Child with a Disability** means a child between the ages of three and five experiencing developmental delay, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas:

Physical, including gross motor, fine motor and sensory (vision and hearing)

1. Cognitive
2. Communication
4. Social and emotional
5. Adaptive

**Social Maladjustment** means a consistent inability to conform to the standards for behavior established by the school. Such behavior is seriously disruptive to the education of the student or other students and is not due to emotional disturbance as defined above.

**Specific Learning Disability** means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using language, spoken, or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. A specific learning disability is determined when a severe discrepancy is found between the student's current achievement and intellectual ability in one or more of the following areas, and that discrepancy is not primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, general cognitive deficits, emotional disturbance or environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage:

1. Basic reading skills;
2. Reading comprehension;
3. Oral expression;
4. Listening comprehension;
5. Mathematical calculation;
6. Mathematical problem solving;
7. Written expression; and
8. Reading fluency.

**Traumatic Brain Injury** means an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force or insult to the brain, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both.

**Visually Impaired** means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a student's educational performance.