








# ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION DISABILITY CATEGORIES

In order for a child to be eligible for special education and related services in schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") he/she must be a child that has a diagnosis fitting in one of 13 categories **and** who, because of that disability, needs special education and related services.<sup>1</sup> The chart below links a diagnosis with an IDEA disability category:

DIAGNOSIS	IDEA CATEGORY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autism</li> <li>• Autism Spectrum Disorder</li> <li>• Asperger's Syndrome</li> <li>• PDD-NOS (Pervasive Development Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified)</li> <li>• Fragile-X Syndrome</li> <li>• Rett's Disorder</li> <li>• Childhood Disintegrative Disorder</li> </ul>	 <p><b>AUTISM</b> 34 CFR §300.8(c)(1)(i)</p>
Combined hearing and visual impairments	 <p><b>DEAF-BLINDNESS</b> 34 CFR §300.8(c)(2)</p>
Severe hearing impairment (deaf)	 <p><b>DEAFNESS</b> 34 CFR §300.8(c)(3)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Depression</li> <li>• Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)</li> <li>• Manic Disorder</li> <li>• Bipolar Disorder</li> <li>• Bulimia</li> <li>• Anorexia nervosa</li> <li>• Schizophrenia</li> </ul>	 <p><b>EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE (ED)</b> 34 CFR §300.8(c)(4)</p>
Hearing Impairment (not clinically deaf)	 <p><b>HEARING IMPAIRMENT</b> 34 CFR §300.8(c)(5)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Retardation (now known as Intellectual Disability)</li> <li>• Below average intelligence or mental ability</li> </ul>	 <p><b>INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY (ID)</b> 34 CFR §300.8(c)(6)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poliomyelitis / Polio</li> <li>• Bone Tuberculosis</li> <li>• Cerebral Palsy</li> <li>• Amputation</li> <li>• Other problems in bones, joints, or muscles caused by birth abnormalities, disease, or other causes resulting in contractures</li> </ul>	 <p><b>ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT</b> 34 CFR §300.8(c)(8)</p>

<sup>1</sup> 20 USC §1401(3)(A); 34 CFR §300.8(a)(1).

- Asthma
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Heart Conditions
- Hemophilia
- Lead Poisoning
- Leukemia
- Nephritis
- Rheumatic Fever
- Sickle Cell Anemia
- Tourette Syndrome



**OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT (OHI)**

34 CFR §300.8(c)(9)

- Perceptual Disabilities
- Brain Injury (congenital)
- Minimal Brain Dysfunction
- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Dysgraphia
- Dyscalculia
- Developmental Aphasia



**SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY (SLD)**

34 CFR §300.8(c)(10)(i)

- Communication Disorders
- Stuttering
- Impaired Articulation
- Lisp
- Apraxia
- Language Impairment
- Voice Impairment
- Selective Mutism



**SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT (S/L)**

34 CFR §300.8(c)(11)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)  
(not congenital or caused by disease)



**TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)**

34 CFR §300.8(c)(12)

- Visual Impairment
- Blindness



**VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

34 CFR §300.8(c)(13)

Combined impairments such as mental retardation-blindness or mental retardation-orthopedic impairment, but not deaf-blindness, which has its own category



**MULTIPLE DISABILITIES**

34 CFR §300.8(c)(7)