

# Evaluation

## MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

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Multiple Disabilities

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## **MULTIPLE DISABILITIES**

### **What is Required**

A student must be assessed in all areas of suspected disability. A student may be identified under the IDEA as a student with multiple disabilities. In meeting the criteria for multiple disabilities, a student with multiple disabilities is one who has a combination of disabilities occurring at the same time, and who meets all of the following conditions:

- The disabilities are expected to continue indefinitely; and
- The disabilities severely impair the student's performance in two or more of the following areas:
  - Psychomotor skills;
  - Self-care skills;
  - Communication;
  - Social and emotional development; or
  - Cognition.

Multiple disabilities means impairments occurring at the same time (such as intellectual disability-blindness or intellectual disability-orthopedic impairment), the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blindness (because deaf-blindness is defined separately and is a disability category of its own under the IDEA). See [DEAF-BLINDNESS]. A student who has more than one disability, but who does not meet the criteria above must not be classified or reported as having multiple disabilities.

The District Assessment Personnel will comply with all requirements set out in state and federal law when conducting an evaluation to determine if a student meets eligibility criteria for multiple disabilities. See [EVALUATION PROCEDURES]. In addition, the group of qualified professionals that collects or reviews evaluation data in connection with the determination of the student's disability based on multiple disabilities impairment must include the members required in two or more of the applicable specific eligibility evaluation procedures. See [EVALUATION].

### **Additional Procedures**

In determining if a student qualifies as a student with multiple disabilities, it is important

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to know which individual disabilities are involved, how severe each disability is, and how each disability can affect learning and daily living. The District or Campus Assessment Personnel will also consider how the combination of disabilities affect the student's learning and functioning. A key part to the eligibility criteria for multiple disabilities is that the *combination of disabilities* causes the student to have severe educational needs. A referral for an intellectual disability evaluation may be indicated when the Campus Personnel and/or the parent of the student suspects the student is exhibiting characteristics of more than one disability the combination of which severely affects the student's educational performance.

If the student does not meet the eligibility criteria for multiple disabilities, or any other eligibility criteria under the IDEA, or does not need special education or related services due to his/her disability, Campus Personnel may refer the student to the Campus or District Personnel responsible for compliance with Section 504 to determine whether the student is eligible for accommodations or services as a student with a disability under Section 504.

## **Evidence of Implementation**

- Notice of Evaluation
- Consent for Evaluation
- Referral Information
- Assessment Plan
- FIE
- ARD/IEP

## **Resources**

[The Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process: Multiple Disabilities Framework - Region 18](#)

[Multiple Disabilities - SPEDTEX](#)

## **CITATIONS**

34 CFR Part 300.8(c), 300.304(c)(4); 19 TAC. 89.1040(b)–(c), 89.1050