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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR DEAFNESS AND HEARING IMPAIRED

“DEAFNESS & HEARING IMPAIRED” DEFINITION

Deafness - a hearing impairment that is so severe that the student is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing with or without amplification that adversely affects a student’s educational performance.

Hearing Impairment - an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance but that is not included under the definition of deafness.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for special education services a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have a disability
2. Must have an educational adverse effect from that identified disability
3. Must require specially designed instruction

Therefore, eligibility for Deafness & Hearing Impaired must include the following:

1. A hearing impairment must exist as identified by an audiologist or other appropriately trained professional.

0-20 dB	Normal	
21-40 dB	Mild hearing loss	Hard of Hearing
41-55 dB	Moderate hearing loss	Hard of Hearing/Deaf
56-70 dB	Moderate-severe loss	Hard of Hearing/Deaf
71-90 dB	Severe hearing loss	Deaf
91 + dB	Profound hearing loss	Deaf

2. Significant delays in skill development in the following areas are highly correlated to failure in academic areas. Delays must be found in one or more of these areas to qualify for hearing impaired services.

- A. Auditory Functioning (speech perception, sound localization, visual attention to speaker, etc.)
- B. Communication skills (lip-reading, receptive and expressive language abilities, pragmatics, including manual communication)
- C. Academic skills (delays in core subject areas)
- D. Social Emotional (self-advocacy, adjustment to disability, etc.)

Students who have a hearing loss in the hard of hearing or deaf range who do not exhibit deficits in the skill areas listed should be considered for a 504 plan at their local school and followed by an audiologist to monitor their hearing status for any changes.

EXCLUSIONARY FACTORS

None

EXIT CRITERIA

Student would not be eligible for Deafness & Hearing Impaired services if the hearing impairment was corrected or resolved and the adverse effect is no longer present.