

Autism (AU)

Definition

A student with autism is one who evidences a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, which adversely affects a child's educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines and unusual responses to sensory experiences. The characteristics of autism are generally evident before age three, but a child who manifests the characteristics of autism after age three could be identified as having autism if the criteria above are satisfied. Students with pervasive developmental disorders are included in this category.

NOTE: The child may not be considered to be a child with autism if a child's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has an emotional disturbance.

Required Eligibility Forms

- Eligibility report for autism or other pervasive disorders
- Psychological report diagnosing autism or POD
- Speech evaluation
- FIE, including present levels of performance and recommendations for students who meet the eligibility of autism
- The team's written report of evaluation shall include specific recommendations for behavioral interventions and strategies.

Evaluation Procedures

A multidisciplinary team must evaluate for autism. In the CFISD, the multidisciplinary team that evaluates for autism includes an LSSP, certified speech and language therapist or a licensed speech language pathologist, diagnostician and other individuals as deemed appropriate (e.g., occupational therapist, etc.). The evaluation is completed with input from campus staff, parents, Cypress- Fairbanks Independent School District staff and outside sources as needed. The evaluation report documents the type of Pervasive Developmental Disorder as defined by the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders V*.

ARD/IEP Requirements

- ARD/IEP AU Supplement
- Behavior intervention for students with severe behavior deficits