



Special Education Operating Procedures

South San Antonio Independent School District

DISABILITY CATEGORIES

To assess children in all areas related to the suspected disability, including if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status, and motor abilities.

Autism	A developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn and behave. Symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life.
Deaf-Blindness	Concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination which causes severe communication and other educational and developmental needs that cannot be accommodated in programs solely that are for children with blindness or children with deafness.
Deaf/Hard of Hearing:	Mild to severe, profound or total hearing loss.
Visual Impairment:	Partial or total loss of vision.
Emotional Disability:	A condition that affects a person's ability to recognize, interpret, control and express emotions.
Intellectual Disability:	A disorder characterized by significant limitations that affects a person's intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior.



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Multiple Disabilities:	A term used to describe a person who has more than one disability such as a sensory and motor disability
Developmental Delay:	A student with developmental delay is one who is between the ages of 3-9 who is evaluated by a multidisciplinary team for at least one disability category whose evaluation data indicates a need for special education and related services and shows evidence of, but does not clearly confirm, the presence of suspected disability or disabilities due to the child's young age. In these cases, an ARD committee may determine that data supports identification of developmental delay in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development.
Orthopedic Impairment:	<p>A severe impairment of musculoskeletal system, which includes the bones, joints, muscles, tendons and ligaments. It can be caused by a number of factors, including:</p> <p>Congenital anomalies, such as spina bifida or skeletal deformities Injuries, such as amputations or fractures Disorders, such as cerebral palsy or juvenile rheumatoid arthritis Diseases, such as muscular dystrophy or bone tuberculosis.</p>
Specific Learning Disability	A brain-based disorder that affects a person's ability to understand or use language.
Speech/Language Impairment	A communication disorder that affects a person's ability to produce speech sounds clearly, speak fluently, or understand and use language effectively, potentially impacting the ability to communicate with others.
Traumatic Brain Injury:	An injury to the brain that occurs when an external force impacts the head. It can range from mild to severe and can affect how a person acts, thinks, moves or feels.



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Other Health Impairment:

Having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness concerning educational awareness, that due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, and sickle cell anemia, and Tourette syndrome and adversely affects a child's educational performance.