

SPECIAL EDUCATION CATEGORY CHANGES ~ 7.09/Effective 9.30.09

Previous Preschool Categories	Senate Bill 1196
<p>Preschool Moderate Delay - means performance by a preschool child on a norm-referenced test that measures at least one and one-half, but not more than three, standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age in two or more of the following areas: (a) cognitive development (b) physical development (c) communication development (d) social or emotional development (e) adaptive development. The results of the norm referenced measure must be corroborated by information from a comprehensive developmental assessment and from parental input, if available, as measured by a judgment based assessment or survey. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.</p> <p>Funding. Preschool Children with a disability receive base preschooler with disability funding along with the preschool entitlement grant monies for IDEA-Section 619.</p>	<p>Developmental Delay – means performance by a child who is at least three years of age but under ten years of age on a norm-referenced test that measures at least one and one-half, but not more than three, standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age in two or more of the following areas: (a) cognitive development (b) physical development (c) communication development (d) social or emotional development (e) adaptive development. The results of the norm referenced measure must be corroborated by information from a comprehensive developmental assessment and from parental input, if available, as measured by a judgment based assessment or survey. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.</p> <p>Funding. Preschoolers are funded the same way as previous PMD category was funded; school-age children are funded the same as Emotionally Disabled (ED), Mild Mental Retardation (MIMR), Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), Speech-Language Impairment (SLI) and Other Health Impaired (OHI).</p>
<p>Preschool Severe Delay – definition and funding remain the same (preschool children receive base preschooler with disability funding + Group B Support Weight Level).</p>	<p>Preschool Severe Delay – definition and funding remain the same (preschool children receive base preschooler with disability funding + Group B Support Weight Level).</p>
<p>Preschool speech/language delay – means performance by a preschool child on a norm-referenced language test that measures at least one and one-half standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age or who speech, out of context, is unintelligible to a listener who is unfamiliar with the child. Eligibility under this paragraph is appropriate only if a comprehensive developmental assessment or norm referenced assessment and parental input indicate that the child is not eligible for services under another preschool category. The evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.</p> <p>Funding. Preschool children receive base preschooler with disability funding along with the preschool entitlement grant monies for IDEA-Section 619.</p>	<p>Speech/language impairment: (a) for a preschool child, means performance on a norm-reference test that measures at least one and one-half standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age or whose speech out of context, is unintelligible to a listener who is unfamiliar with the child. Eligibility for a preschool child under this subdivision is appropriate only when a comprehensive developmental assessment and parental input indicate that the preschool child is not eligible for services under another preschool category or under the developmental delay category. (b) no change to school-aged definition of SLI</p> <p>Funding. Preschoolers are funded the same way as previous PSL category was funded; SLI for school-age children remains the same.</p>
<p>Vision Impairment – no change</p>	<p>Vision Impairment – no change</p>
<p>Hearing Impairment – no change</p>	<p>Hearing Impairment – no change</p>

A school-aged category is no longer mandatory when transitioning children from preschool to kindergarten when identified with DD or SLI. PSD children still require an evaluation beginning with a Review of Existing Data in order to determine a school-aged eligibility. Teams should reevaluate whenever necessary, but must reevaluate every three years, unless the parent and public agency agree that a reevaluation is unnecessary, and must determine the appropriate category before the child turns 10 years old. The use of a developmental delay category does not preclude the use of appropriate disability categories and should not be used to postpone identification of a more suitable category. For children with low incidence, multiple, or significant disabilities, being identified with the appropriate specific disability will help to identify appropriate services and appropriate funding for each child.