



**Arizona Department of Education
Diane M. Douglas, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

**Exceptional Student Services
Arizona Technical Assistance System
(AZ-TAS)**

Qualified Professionals Eligible to Conduct Appropriate Evaluations

**A Technical Assistance Document to Support Evaluations; as Required by
R7-2-401 (G.8)**

Introduction

On October 23, 2017, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted rules in the area of Special Education (R7-2-401). These rules replaced the specific professionals previously required to verify certain disabilities with the general term "qualified professional." These rules further required the Arizona Department of Education to create a list, to be reviewed and approved by the State Board of Education, of qualified professionals eligible to conduct the appropriate evaluations. From the rules:

The Department shall develop a list, subject to review and approval of the State Board of Education, of qualified professionals eligible to conduct the appropriate evaluations prescribed in 35 subsection (E)(7).

The following is the list of qualified professionals developed by the Department of Education as required by (R7-2-401(G)(8) *as amended and approved by the Arizona State Board of Education on 1/29/18; revised 8/27/18.*

QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL LIST

Per R7-2-401

For the following disabilities, the full and individual initial evaluation shall include:

- Emotional disability:
 - verification of a disorder by a psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, licensed *professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker (LSCW)*, or a certified school psychologist.
- Hearing impairment:
 - An audiological evaluation by an individual holding a master's or doctoral degree in audiology, and
 - An evaluation of communication/language proficiency.
- Other health impairment:
 - verification of a health impairment by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed physician assistant, *or in cases of ADHD a certified school psychologist or licensed psychologist.*
- Orthopedic impairment:
 - verification of the physical disability by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, *doctor of podiatric medicine*, licensed nurse practitioner, or licensed physician assistant.
- Speech/language impairment:
 - *an evaluation by a certified speech-language pathologist or speech-language technician.*
 - *For students whose speech impairments appear to be limited to articulation, voice, or fluency problems, the written evaluation may be limited to:*
 - *An audiometric screening within the past calendar year,*
 - *A review of academic history and classroom functioning,*
 - *An assessment of the speech problem by a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist or speech language technician, or*
 - *An assessment of the student's functional communication skills.*
- Traumatic brain injury:
 - verification of the injury by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed physician assistant *or a licensed clinical neuropsychologist*
- Visual impairment:
 - verification of a visual impairment by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.