

IDEA Disability Categories

In compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the state of Colorado's Department of Education (CDE) has developed specific eligibility criteria that varies depending on the disability category. For example, the eligibility criteria for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder is different than the criteria for students with Deaf-Blindness.

The specific eligibility category must be identified on the student's IEP; however, this label does not dictate services or placement. The student's needs should always determine the services to be provided and their placement.

For persons from *three to twenty-one years of age* who are unable to receive reasonable benefit from general education alone, these categories are:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Deaf-Blindness
- Developmental Delay (ages 3 – 8)
- Hearing Impairment, including Deafness
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Serious Emotional Disability
- Specific Learning Disability
 - Basic Reading Skills
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Reading Fluency Skills
 - Written Expression
 - Mathematical Calculation
 - Mathematical Problem Solving
 - Oral
 - Listening Comprehension
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment, including Blindness

To view eligibility criteria for the categories above, visit [CDE's IEP Forms](#) page online and scroll down to the Eligibility Section.

There is an additional eligibility category for those who fall under Part C of IDEA, *ages birth through two*, which is also known as Early Intervention Colorado. This category is:

- Infant/Toddler with a disability

The eligibility criteria under Part C is more broad and can be accessed through Early Intervention [Colorado's Family Guidebook 1](#).