

DEAFNESS GUIDELINES**Federal Definition of Deafness:**

A hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Eligibility:

A "child with deafness" means that a child has been evaluated in accordance with the Department's policies and procedures, determined to have deafness, and as a result of deafness, needs special education (i.e., specially designed instruction) and may require related services. "Specially designed instruction" means adapting, as appropriate, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child that results from the disability, and ensure access of the child to the general education curriculum so that the child can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the district that apply to all children.

Criteria:

A child is determined by a qualified professional to have no functional hearing (when unaided); AND

For children with deafness, who, as a result of the hearing loss, are demonstrating lower auditory language functioning skills (i.e. 15 point split or greater between auditory language skills and nonverbal ability) in relationship to their cognitive ability as measured by nonverbal assessment procedures; OR

For children grades 1-12 with deafness, who, as a result of the hearing loss, are determined (i.e. through teacher observation and achievement testing) to be delayed by one or more years (in relationship to expected rates of growth) in one or more of the following areas:

- Language (verbal or written);
- Speech intelligibility; and/or
- Subject-content areas (reading, science, social studies) in relationship to expected rates of academic growth; OR

For children ages 3 through Kindergarten with deafness, who, as a result of the hearing loss, are determined to have delays in speech and/or language of six months or more

Educational Impact:

The impact of the disability requires **specialized instruction** as it has an **adverse impact** on educational performance and is **not** able to be provided by general education.