

**HEARING IMPAIRMENT GUIDELINES****Federal Definition of Hearing Impairment:**

Hearing Impairment means an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance but that is not included under the definition of deafness.

**Criteria:**

A child is determined by a qualified professional to have a bilateral or unilateral hearing loss; AND

For children with identified hearing losses (aided or unaided), either permanent or fluctuating, 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 identified hearing loss (aided or unaided), either permanent or fluctuating, who, as a result of their hearing losses, are determined (i.e. through teacher observation and achievement testing) to be delayed by one or more years (in relationship to expected rates of academic growth) in one or more of the following areas:

- Language (verbal and 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 identified hearing loss (aided or unaided), either permanent or fluctuating, who, as a result of their hearing losses, 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.