

Section 6: HEARING IMPAIRMENT

Federal & State Definition

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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A student must meet the Audiological Criteria and at least one of the Educational Criteria. A student is eligible only if these characteristics interfere with their academic, functional performance, social interaction, or emotional development. A student must have documentation that meets the audiological criteria and one or more educational criteria listed below before an educational eligibility of a hearing impairment can be determined.

Audiological Criteria

- ☐ Puretone score greater than 21dB.

Educational Criteria

The child's hearing loss is such that the child cannot make appropriate progress in the educational setting without specialized instruction from a Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing AND there is a delay in one or more of the following areas:

- ☐ Unaided speech discrimination scores below 80% either in the presence or absence of competing noise
- ☐ Auditory Functioning – speech perception, noise impact, sound identification and localization
- ☐ Communication Skills – receptive and expressive language, pragmatics, oral skills, total communication, or sign if appropriate
- ☐ Academic skills- below average in reading or writing
- ☐ Functional Skills – self-advocacy, social interaction, amplification use and maintenance, visual attention to details

EXCLUSIONARY FACTORS

A child will NOT be considered eligible for services under Hearing Impairment if:

- ☐ The hearing loss is determined by a qualified medical professional (MD, AUD, ENT) to be temporary and the duration of the loss is not expected to substantially or permanently impact learning or educational performance (i.e. ear infection).
- ☐ The child has hearing within the normal range and no medical diagnosis of a hearing impairment, but has auditory processing problems adversely affecting his/her education.
- ☐ Hearing impairment does not adversely affect educational performance.
- ☐ The disability is more accurately described by another category of eligibility.

Adverse Educational Effect – Domains that need to be considered include academic achievement, functional performance, social interaction, and behavioral functioning.