

# Evaluation

## SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT

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Model operating procedures created by



Student Solutions

and

Thompson  
& Horton<sub>LLP</sub>

ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS

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## Speech or Language Impairment

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## **SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT**

### **What is Required**

A student must be assessed under the IDEA in all areas of suspected disability. Speech Impairment or SI is one of the areas of eligible disabilities under the IDEA.

A student with a speech impairment is one who has been determined to meet the criteria for speech or language impairment. Speech or language impairment means a communication disorder or a voice , such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment, that adversely affects a student’s educational performance.

To assess for SI, the District or Campus Assessment Personnel will comply with the general evaluation procedures. See [EVALUATION PROCEDURES]. In addition, the group of qualified professionals that collects or reviews evaluation data in connection with the determination of a student's eligibility based on a speech impairment must include a certified speech and hearing therapist, a certified speech and language therapist, or a licensed speech-language pathologist.

### **Additional Procedures**

A referral for a speech or language impairment evaluation may be indicated when the District and/or the parent of the student suspects that learning issues are a result of a communication disorder or a voice impairment that adversely affects the student's educational performance. A student who has difficulty producing speech or understanding and communicating ideas may have a speech-language impairment.

In Texas, speech-language therapy is considered an instructional service. Thus, it can be a stand-alone service as well as a support provided for the student to receive benefit from other special education services.

A speech evaluation will usually include assessment to determine if the student has a communication disorder, a language disorder, an articulation disorder, a fluency disorder and/or a voice disorder.

If the student does not meet the eligibility criteria for SI, or any other eligibility criteria under the IDEA, or does not need special education or related services due to his/her disability, Campus Personnel should refer the student to the Campus or District Personnel responsible for compliance with Section 504 to determine whether the student is eligible for accommodations or services as a student with a disability under Section 504.



## Speech or Language Impairment

### **Evidence of Implementation**

- Notice of Evaluation
- Consent for Evaluation
- Referral Information
- Assessment Plan
- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- Referral Documentation
- Speech/Language Assessment

### **Resources**

[The Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process: Speech or Language Impairment Framework - Region 18](#)

[Texas Speech Language Hearing Association Eligibility Guidelines for Speech Impairment 2009 - Region 13](#)

[OSEP Letter to Anonymous \(Nov. 28, 2007\) - U.S. Department of Education](#)

[OSEP Letter to Clarke \(Mar. 8, 2007\) - U.S. Department of Education](#)

[OSEP Letter to Blodgett \(Nov. 12, 2014\) - U.S. Department of Education](#)

[Speech or Language Impairment - SPEDTEX](#)

### **CITATIONS**

34 CFR 300.8(c)(11), 300.304(c)(4); 19 TAC 89.1040(b)–(c), 89.1050(a)(5)