

Disability Categories Information and Resources

The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, has 13 categories under which students are eligible for protections and services promised by this law. The 13 categories are:

- **Autism**
- **Deaf-Blindness**
- **Deafness**
- **Developmental Delay**
- **Emotional Disturbance**
- **Hearing Impairment**
- **Intellectual Disability**
- **Multiple Disabilities**
- **Orthopedic Impairment**
- **Other Health Impairment**
- **Specific Learning Disability**
- **Speech or Language Impairment**
- **Traumatic Brain Injury**
- **Visual Impairment including Blindness**

The **IDEA** allows States to choose additional categories – Wisconsin chose to add:

- **Developmental Delay (DD)**
- **Significant Developmental Delay (SDD)**

Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder includes:

- **Autism**
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder**
 - **Asperger syndrome**
 - **Rett syndrome**
 - **Childhood disintegrative Disorder (CDD) (also known as Heller's Syndrome)**
 - **Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDDNOS).**

Deaf-Blindness

Deafness

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Developmental Delay

Emotional Behavioral Disturbance **Information and Resources**

Emotional/Behavioral Disturbance (EBD) is a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance:

- An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors.
- An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers.
- Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances.
- A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression.
- A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

Some of the characteristics and behaviors seen in children who have an emotional disturbance include:

- Hyperactivity (short attention span, impulsiveness)
- Aggression or self-injurious behavior (acting out, fighting)
- Withdrawal (not interacting socially with others, excessive fear or anxiety)
- Immaturity (inappropriate crying, temper tantrums, poor coping skills)
- Learning difficulties (academically performing below grade level)

Children with the most serious emotional disturbances may exhibit distorted thinking, excessive anxiety, bizarre motor acts, and abnormal mood swings.

As defined by IDEA, emotional disturbance includes:

- Anxiety Disorders
- Bipolar Disorder
- Conduct Disorder – such as – Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Eating Disorders
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Psychotic Disorders - such as – Schizophrenia

Hearing Impairments

Intellectual Disability

- **Down syndrome**
- **Fragile X syndrome**
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**

Multiple Disabilities

Orthopedic Impairments

- **Spina Bifida**
- **Cerebral Palsy**
- **Muscular Dystrophy**
- **Spinal Cord injuries**
- **Amputations**
- **Clubfoot**

Other Health Impairments Information and Resources

Other health impairments means having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment, that adversely affects a child's educational performance and is due to chronic or acute health problems such as:

- **AIDS**
- **Asthma**
- **[Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder \(AD/HD\)](#)**
- **Cancer**
- **Cystic Fibrosis**
- **Diabetes**
- **Epilepsy**
- **Heart Conditions**
- **Hemophilia**
- **HIV**
- **Lead Poisoning**
- **Leukemia**
- **Nephritis**
- **Rheumatic Fever**
- **Sickle Cell Anemia**
- **Tourette Syndrome**

Specific Learning Disabilities including:

- **Dyslexia**
- **Developmental Aphasia – a type of language disorder**
- **Perceptual Disabilities**
- **Brain Injuries**
- **Minimal Brain Dysfunction**

Speech and Language Impairments

Traumatic Brain Injury

Visual Impairment including Blindness