

Categories of Disability

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act guarantees that eligible children with disabilities receive free appropriate public education, along with special education and related services.

The act governs how states and public agencies provide education and services to children with disabilities and helps them do so.

IDEA also defines “child with a disability” and specific disability terms. You will see these definitions on the following pages.

For more information about IDEA, visit <https://sites.ed.gov/idea>.



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➤ AUTISM

Autism is a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age 3, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Other characteristics often associated with autism are engaging in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines and unusual responses to sensory experiences.

Autism Foundation of Oklahoma
<https://www.autismfoundationok.org>

A New Leaf
www.anewleaf.org

Autism Society of America
www.autism-society.org

Autism Speaks
<https://www.autismspeaks.org>

National Autism Association
nationalautismassociation.org

National Autism Center
www.nationalautismcenter.org

Oklahoma Autism Network
www.okautism.org



➤ DEAF-BLINDNESS

Deaf-blindness involves simultaneous hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that students cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) at the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
<https://oklahoma.gov/okdrs/job-seekers/sbvi.html>

Oklahoma Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project
www.ou.edu/content/education/edpy/special-education/deaf-blind-project.html

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
<http://www.olbph.org>

I Can Connect
www.icanconnect.org

National Center on Deaf-Blindness
<https://nationaldb.org>

Oklahoma School for the Blind
<http://osb.k12.ok.us>

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
www.osd.k12.ok.us

New View Oklahoma
<https://nvoklahoma.org>



➤ **DEAFNESS**

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

American Society for Deaf Children

www.deafchildren.org

The Deaf Resource Library

www.deaflibrary.org

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov>

Oklahoma Association of the Deaf

www.ok-oad.org

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

www.osd.k12.ok.us



➤ **DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY**

For children from birth to age 3 (under IDEA Part C) and children from ages 3 through 9 (under IDEA Part B), the term developmental delay, as defined by each state, means a delay in one or more of the following areas: physical development; cognitive development; communication; social or emotional development; or adaptive [behavioral] development.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

National Association for the Education of Young Children

<http://naeyc.org>

Parent Center Hub

www.parentcenterhub.org/dd



► EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE

Emotional disturbance 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:

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

The term does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted, unless it is determined that they have emotional disturbances.

Division for Emotional & Behavioral Health
www.debh.exceptionalchildren.org

**American Academy of Child
& Adolescent Psychiatry**
www.aacap.org

INTEGRIS Mental Health Oklahoma
<https://integrisok.com/Services/Line/Mental-Health-and-Psychiatry>

**National Institute on Mental Illness
(Oklahoma)**
www.namioklahoma.org

**Oklahoma Department of Mental
Health and Substance Abuse Services**
www.ok.gov/odmhsas



► HEARING IMPAIRMENT

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

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
<https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/hearing-loss-organizations-and-associations>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/links.html>



► INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Intellectual disability is significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Center for Parent Information and Resources

www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/intellectual/

Down Syndrome Association of Oklahoma

dsaco.org

National Down Syndrome Congress

www.ndsccenter.org

National Down Syndrome Society

www.ndss.org

Oklahoma Special Olympics

www.sook.org



► MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

Multiple disabilities are simultaneous impairments (such as intellectual disability-blindness, intellectual disability-orthopedic impairment, etc.), the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in a special education program solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blindness.

Center for Parent Information and Resources

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/multiple>

Special Education Guide

<https://www.specialeducationguide.com/disability-profiles/multiple-disabilities>

The National Association for the Dually Diagnosed

www.thenadd.org

TASH

www.tash.org



► ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT

Orthopedic impairment is a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly, impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis) and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

Cerebral Palsy Guidance

<https://www.cerebralpalsyguidance.com>

Project IDEAL

<http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/orthopedic-impairments>



➤ OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT

Other Health Impairment involves having limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment and meets two criteria:

(a) It is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia and Tourette syndrome.

(b) It adversely affects a child's educational performance.

CHADD
www.chadd.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/asthma/default.htm

Epilepsy Foundation
www.epilepsy.com

Institutes of Health
www.nih.gov

Project IDEAL
www.projectidealonline.org/v/health-impairments

Tourette Association of America
www.tourette.org



➤ SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY

Specific Learning Disability is a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations.

The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and developmental aphasia.

The term does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing or motor disabilities; of intellectual disability; of emotional disturbance; or of environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage.

Center for Parent Information and Resources
www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/ld

Center on Instruction
www.centeroninstruction.org

LD Online
www.ldonline.org

Learning Disabilities Association of America
<https://ldaamerica.org/educators>

Project IDEAL
<http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/specific-learning-disabilities>



➤ **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT**

Speech or language impairment includes communication disorders such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

<http://www.asha.org>

Center for Parent Information and Resources

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/speechlanguage>

Cleft Palate Foundation

<http://www.cleftline.org>

Project IDEAL

<http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/speech-language-impairments>

The Stuttering Foundation

<http://www.stutteringhelp.org>

Institutes of Health

www.nih.gov

Project IDEAL

www.projectidealonline.org/v/health-impairments

Tourette Association of America

www.tourette.org



➤ **TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**

Traumatic brain injury is an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech.

The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

Brainline

<http://www.brainline.org>

International Brain Injury Association

<https://www.internationalbrain.org>

National Association of Special Education Teachers

<https://www.naset.org/professional-resources/exceptional-students-and-disability-information/traumatic-brain-injury-and-neurological-impairment>

National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury

<https://tbi.vcu.edu>

Project IDEAL

<http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/traumatic-brain-injury/>



▶ VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS INCLUDING BLINDNESS

Visual impairments including blindness are impairments in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults
<https://actionfund.org>

Center for Disease Control Facts About Vision Loss
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/VisionLossFactSheet.pdf

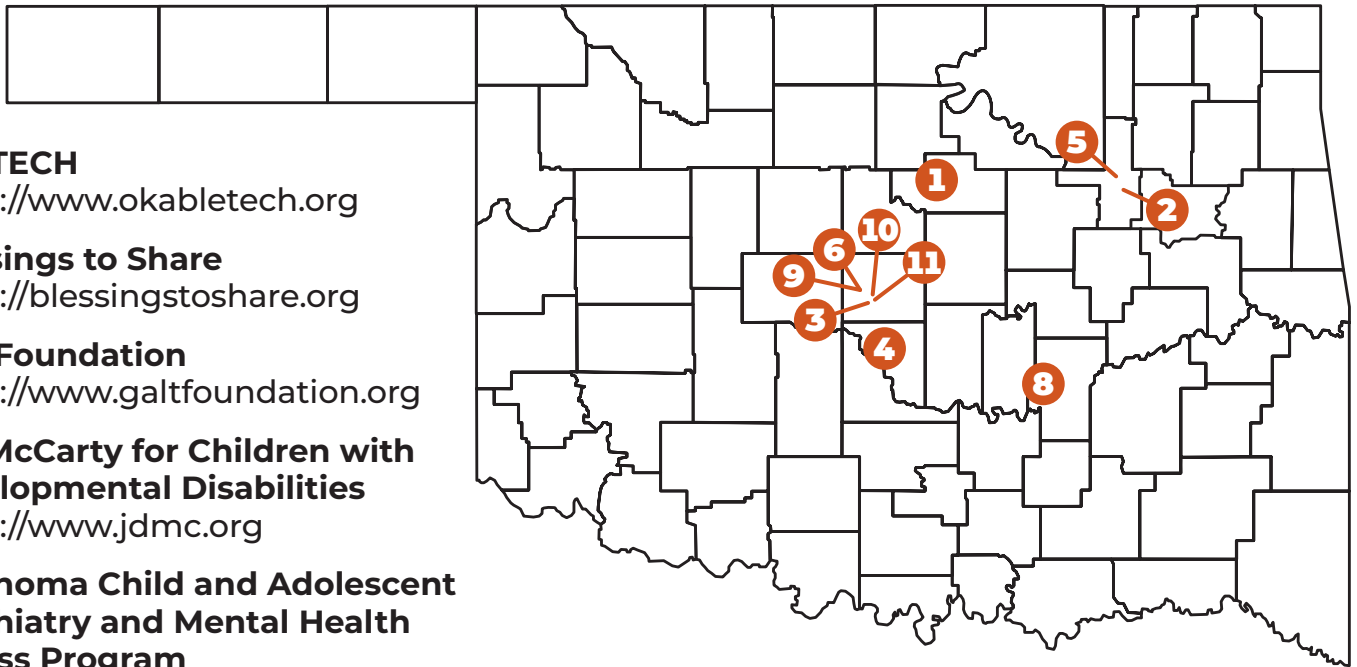
New View Oklahoma
www.newviewoklahoma.org

Oklahoma School for the Blind
osb.k12.ok.us

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
<http://www.library.state.ok.us>

Perkins School for the Blind
www.perkins.org

ADDITIONAL OKLAHOMA-BASED RESOURCES



- 1 AbleTECH**
<https://www.okabletech.org>
- 2 Blessings to Share**
<https://blessingstoshare.org>
- 3 Galt Foundation**
<https://www.galtfoundation.org>
- 4 J.D. McCarty for Children with Developmental Disabilities**
<https://www.jdmc.org>
- 5 Oklahoma Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health Access Program**
<https://www.okcapmap.org>
- 6 Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services**
www.okdrs.gov
- 7 Oklahoma Inclusive Post Secondary Education Alliance (OKIPSE)**
<https://www.okipsealliance.org>
**No physical location*
- 8 Oklahoma Parents Center**
www.oklahomaparentscenter.org

- 9 Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council**
<https://orc.okstate.edu>
- 10 Oklahoma State Department of Education**
<https://sde.ok.gov/special-education>
- 11 University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center – Oklahoma Self-Advocacy Network (OKSAN)**
<https://ouhsc.edu/thecenter/Projects/Training-and-Collaboration/OKSAN>



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Contact us at 405-743-5162

Follow us

CCD website: **okcareer.tech/ccd**

Oklahoma's Premier Online Career Development System: **OKCareerGuide.org**

Source: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/categories/>

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