

Multiple Disabilities

Definition:

A student with multiple disabilities shall have two or more areas of significant impairment, one of which shall be a cognitive impairment except in the case of deaf-blindness. Cognitive impairment shall mean significant limited intellectual capacity. The other areas of significant impairment include: physical, visual, auditory, communicative or emotional. The combination of such impairments creates a unique condition that is evidenced through a multiplicity of needs which prevent the student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education. The definition of impairment shall be the same as that for each of the single disabilities.

Criteria:

Multiple disabilities preventing a student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education shall be the same as that considered for each of the single disabilities and shall include documentation of:

- Significant limited intellectual capacity AND
- Significant identifiable emotional disability
- Hearing disability
- Vision disability
- Physical disability
- Speech/language disability AND/OR
- Deaf-Blind

Indicators for the combination of impairments creating a unique condition shall be the:

- Inability to comprehend and utilize instructional information
- Inability to generalize skills consistently
- Inability to communicate fluently
- Inability to demonstrate problem solving skills when such information is presented in a traditional academic curriculum

Additional Resources and Information

<http://www.familyconnect.org/parentsitetime.asp?SectionID=79>

Family Connect is a website designed especially for parents of children with visual impairments. This site includes information on multiple disabilities and a variety of topics that would be of interest to all parents.

<http://www.ddrcco.com/>

The Developmental Disabilities Resource Center is a non-profit organization that offers services to families and provides family support and resources.

<http://www.cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>

The Council for Exceptional Children provides up-to-date information, resources, opportunities and references for parents of children with disabilities.