

# Specific Learning Disability

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## Definition:

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Specific Learning Disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may be manifested by deficits in the ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. Specific Learning disability does not include problems that are primarily the result of: visual, hearing, or motor disabilities; significant limited intellectual capacity; significant identifiable emotional disability; cultural factors; environmental or economic disadvantage; or limited English proficiency. The specific learning disability prevents a student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education alone.

## Criteria:

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The student meets the following criteria:

1. The student does not achieve adequately for the student's age or to meet State-approved grade-level standards in one or more of the areas identified below, when provided with experiences and instruction for their age or State-approved grade-level standards, **and**
2. The student does not make sufficient progress to meet age or State-approved grade-level standards in the area(s) identified when using a process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention.

Deficit areas must meet both conditions listed above:

- Basic Reading Skills
- Reading Fluency Skills
- Reading Comprehension
- Written Expression
- Mathematical Calculation
- Mathematical Problem Solving
- Oral Expression
- Listening Comprehension

The IEP must contain documentation of the following:

A body of evidence that demonstrates:

1. Academic Skill deficits, *and*
2. Insufficient progress in response to scientific, research-based intervention in the area(s) identified above
  - An observation of the student's academic performance in the area(s) of difficulty in the learning environment, including the relevant behavior and relationship of that behavior to the student's academic functioning.
  - The instructional strategies used
  - The student-centered data collected including documentation of repeated assessments or achievement at reasonable intervals
  - The educationally relevant medical findings exist and are described, or do not exist

## **CDE Resources and Information:**

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<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-PCD.asp>

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/Rtl/downloads/PDF/Brochure\\_ColoradoRTI.pdf](http://www.cde.state.co.us/Rtl/downloads/PDF/Brochure_ColoradoRTI.pdf)

## **Additional Resources and Information:**

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<http://www.ldonline.org/parents>

Provides a wealth of information for parents of students who have a specific learning disability. This site features top subjects and articles, multimedia presentations, additional resources and recommended links.

<http://www.ldanatl.org/aboutld/parents/index.asp>

Learning Disabilities Association of America supports parents in finding information, training and resources to understand learning disabilities, negotiate the special education process and help your child and yourself.

<http://www.interdys.org/>

The International Dyslexia Association is a non-profit organization that helps individuals with dyslexia and their families. This website includes current news, training opportunities and resources that promote literacy.

<http://www.greatschools.net/content/specialNeeds.page?fromSchwab=1>

GreatSchools promotes parent involvement in the educational process of their child/student. This website supports parent understanding of identifying learning problems, managing behavior and addressing issues related to home and school.

<http://allkindsofminds.org/ptk/index.aspx>

All Kinds of Minds includes a “Parent Toolkit” for appreciating, celebrating and managing learning differences in the educational process.

<http://www.nclld.org/content/view/827/527/>

The National Center for Learning Disabilities provides parents with information, strategies, guides and resources to support learning success for students with learning disabilities.