

Categorical Disability Areas Eligible for Special Education Services in Minnesota:

1. **SLD:** SLD stands for Specific Learning Disability. According to the 1977 Federal Register Definition, "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, which may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations." In Minnesota, students must meet 3 criteria: severe underachievement, severe discrepancy, and information processing.
2. **Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD):** This was formerly mental impairments (MMI/MMMI), and was also known as Mental Retardation. Students who display significantly below-average intellectual functioning and adaptive skills in everyday life (such as communication, self-care, home-living, social skills, community use, self-direction, health and safety, functional academics, leisure and work) are diagnosed with Developmental Cognitive Disabilities. Both of these traits have to exist for a diagnosis to be made. The level of support that students need to be successful in the adaptive skills is part of the Minnesota eligibility criteria. Many cognitively impaired students can learn a great deal and grow to lead at least partially independent lives. The disability category of DCD still distinguishes the severity of the cognitive disability: Mild/Moderate or Moderate Severe.
3. **E/BD:** E stands for emotional and BD stands for Behavior Disorder. It is defined as a repetitive or persistent pattern of behavior in which the basic rights of others or major age-appropriate societal norms or rules are violated. It includes aggressiveness towards people and/or animals, destruction of property, deceitfulness or theft and/or serious violation of rules. It is defined as a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period and to a marked degree, which adversely affects educational performance: -An inability to build and maintain satisfactory relationships with peers or teachers. - Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances. -A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression. -A tendency to develop symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems. In Minnesota, the category is combined to reflect Emotional/Behavior Disorders, EBD.
4. **TBI:** TBI stands for Traumatic Brain Injury. This is a disability that occurs due to environmental causes rather than genetic factors. Depending on the type of injury, TBI can affect the sensory/motor skills and/or mental capacities.
5. **Autism:** Students with Autism demonstrate developmental disability that significantly affects verbal and nonverbal communication and social interactions generally evident before age 3, that adversely affects a student's educational performance. Other characteristics include engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences.

6. **VI:** VI stands for Vision Impairments. Vision impairments can be poor vision, blindness, and/or an inherited or degenerative eye condition.
7. **D/HOH:** D/HOH stands for Deaf and Heard of Hearing Conditions. The students can have significant hearing loss or complete loss of hearing called deafness.
8. **Developmental Delay**, formerly Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) refers to children birth to age 6 years 11 months who have delays in two or more developmental areas.
9. **OHD:** OHD stands for Other Health Disability (formerly Other Health Impaired, OHI). Students who have health conditions that impact their academic progress due to limited strength, endurance, alertness, or intrusive health procedures (chemotherapy). Students with ADD/ADHD must meet eligibility criteria for special education in this category.

* ADD/ADHD: ADD stands for Attention Deficit Disorder without hyperactivity; ADHD stands for Attention Deficit Disorder Hyperactivity Disorder. These are disorders that can only be diagnosed by a medical doctor. With or without hyperactivity, the disorder is considered a dysfunction related to learning disabilities because it is the position that attention deficits interfere with the learning process. Students with ADD/ADHD who have an impact on educational progress must meet eligibility criteria under the disability category of Other Health Disability. Minnesota has added the DSM-IV (Diagnostic Statistical Manual IV) components as part of the eligibility criteria.
10. **S/L:** S/L stands for Speech or Language Impairments. Students who qualify for special education services in this category have a fluency disorder, voice disorder, articulation disorder, or a language disorder.
11. **Deaf/Blind:** Students who qualify for this disability meet special education criteria for blindness and deafness.
12. **PI:** PI stands for Physically Impaired. Students with this disability have a medically diagnosed physical impairment (cerebral palsy, for example) and have documented observations of impairments in independent work skills, organizational skills, motor skills, or achievement.
13. **SMI:** SMI stands for Severely Multiply Impaired. Students who have this disability meet special education criteria in two or more disability areas: D/HOH, PI, VI, EBD, and/or Autism.