

Missouri Special Education Categories

Missouri is a categorical state. This means that any child must have one of the 13 educational diagnoses to receive special education services. These 13 diagnostic categories are specified under federal educational law. These categories are defined, and eligibility criteria for each is given, in the *Missouri State Plan for Special Education: Regulations Implementing Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2004)*. These regulations went into effect October 1, 2001, and were maintained in the 2004 version.

Missouri's Educational Diagnostic Categories

1. Autism
2. Deaf/Blindness
3. Emotional Disturbance (ED)
4. Hearing Impairment and Deafness (HI)
5. Mental Retardation (MR)
6. Multiple Disabilities
7. Orthopedic Impairment
8. Other Health Impairments (OHI)
9. Specific Learning Disabilities (LD)
10. Speech or Language Impairment
 - ❖ Language Impairment
 - ❖ Sound System Disorder
 - ❖ Speech/Fluency
 - ❖ Speech/Voice
11. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
12. Visual Impairment/Blindness (VI)
13. Young Child with a Developmental Delay (YCDD)

Young Child with a Developmental Delay (YCDD)

Missouri regulations allow children ages 3 through 5 who experience developmental delays in one or more areas to be identified under YCDD or any of the disability categories. The choice is a decision of the local agency/district and is made through their approved policy or local compliance plan (Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2001). A child who is age 5 (kindergarten eligible) may continue to be eligible for services under YCDD if he or she was identified as such prior to attaining kindergarten-age eligibility if the local agency/district made this choice in their approved policy. Children who are first-grade-age eligible (age 6 by August 1) must meet criteria under any disability category other than YCDD.

Children who are kindergarten-age eligible who have not been identified as eligible for special education in prior years must meet criteria of any disability other than YCDD.

An educational diagnosis, or determination of eligibility, is the key that opens the door to special education services.

Important!

The category, however, does **not** drive the services provided for the child. Services are matched to the individual needs of the child regardless of his or her educational disability.

References

- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. (2004). *Missouri state plan for special education: Regulations implementing Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Jefferson City, MO: Author. Retrieved June 25, 2004, from <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/stateplan/FY2004/>
- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. (2001). *Local plan for compliance with state regulations. Implementing Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Jefferson City, MO: Author. Retrieved June 25, 2004, from <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Compliance/StandardsManual/>
- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Special Education. (2001). *Special education compliance: Program review standards and indicators*. Jefferson City, MO: Author. Retrieved June 25, 2004, from <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Compliance/StandardsManual/>