


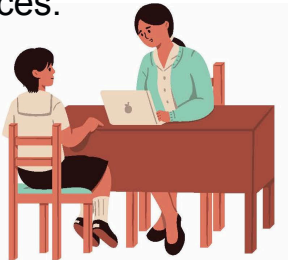
Eligibility Categories for Special Education Under IDEA and Chapter 60

The assignment of an eligibility category follows a comprehensive evaluation and a decision by the eligibility team that the student meets criteria set out in state and federal eligibility regulations.



IDEA's eligibility categories open the door for a child to receive special education.

To be found eligible, the child's disability must impact their learning and require specially designed instruction and related services.



The eligibility process filters out students whose struggles with learning are primarily due to missing school or having English as a second language.



Hawaii's 14 Categories

Hawaii's special education community chose to adopt developmental delay as an optional category under IDEA.

1. Autism Spectrum Disorders
2. Deaf
3. Deaf-Blindness
4. Developmental Delay
5. Emotional Disability
6. Hard of Hearing
7. Intellectual Disability
8. Multiple Disabilities
9. Orthopedic Disability
10. Other Health Disability
11. Specific Learning Disability
12. Speech or Language Disability
13. Traumatic Brain Injury
14. Visual Disability (including Blindness)

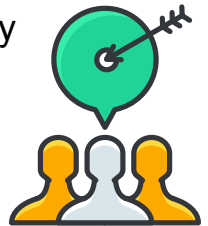
A child's eligibility category is **not used to determine their services or placement**. These are determined by the IEP team based on the child's individualized needs.



Children with a wide range of disabilities, including chronic health conditions like asthma and neurological conditions like ADHD, may qualify for special education and related services.



If a student qualifies for more than one eligibility category, the eligibility team, including the parent, generally chooses the category that impacts the student the most.



A student's eligibility category can change over time. Children 3 through 8 who are determined to have a developmental delay must have a reevaluation by age 9 to determine whether they are eligible under a different category.

