

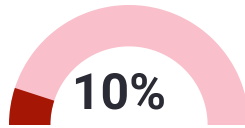
Eligibility Categories for Special Education Under IDEA and Chapter 60

Speech or Language Disability (SoL)

A Speech or Language Disability (SoL) means a child has a significant problem in producing or understanding oral language that is not consistent with their level of development or thinking abilities.



Most students with a Speech or Language Disability eligibility are age 10 or younger, representing about **10%** of all students with IEPs from preschool to 4th grade.



Source: SY 23-24 618 Child Count Data

The team that evaluates a student for a speech or language disabilities must take into account cultural and ethnic differences, for example the use of silence, in order to separate out cultural norms from the existence of an underlying disability.



In order to qualify under this eligibility category, a **speech-language pathologist** must be part of the team making the decision.



Speech or Language Disability Eligibility Standards

To be found eligible for special education and related services under the category of SoL, a child must have a significant problem in one (1) or more of the following areas:

Area

Examples

Articulation:
Difficulty making certain sounds

"wabbit"



Sounds may be left off, added, changed or distorted making it hard to understand the child.

Fluency disorder:
Difficulty with the flow of speech



Stuttering, hesitating, stretching out, repeating, or cluttering sounds.

Phonological disorder:
Difficulty orally sequencing sounds in words/sentences



A pattern of leaving out a sound, substituting one sound for another or simplifying.

Voice disorders:
No or abnormal-sounding voice



An absence of voice, or abnormal pitch, loudness, resonance or quality of the voice

Language:
Difficulty understanding and/or using words



Improper use of words and their meanings, an inability to express ideas, a reduced vocabulary, or improper grammar.

Expressive or Receptive?

Children who have a language disability may have trouble communicating their thoughts (expressive language) and/or may have trouble understanding the meaning of what is being said (receptive language).

