Categories of Disability

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act guarantees that eligible children with disabilities receive free appropriate public education, along with special education and related services.

The act governs how states and public agencies provide education and services to children with disabilities and helps them do so.

IDEA also defines “child with a disability” and specific disability terms. You will see these definitions on the following pages.

For more information about IDEA, visit **https://sites.ed.gov/idea**.

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AUTISM

Autism is a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age 3, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Other characteristics often associated with autism are engaging in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines and unusual responses to sensory experiences.

Autism Foundation of Oklahoma
https://www.autismfoundationok.org

A New Leaf
www.anewleaf.org

Autism Society of America
www.autism-society.org

Autism Speaks
https://www.autismspeaks.org

National Autism Association
nationalautismassociation.org

National Autism Center
www.nationalautismcenter.org

Oklahoma Autism Network
www.okautism.org

DEAF-BLINDNESS

Deaf-blindness involves simultaneous hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that students cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) at the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
https://oklahoma.gov/okdrs/job-seekers/sbvi.html

Oklahoma Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project
www.ou.edu.content/education/edpy/special-education/deaf-blind-project.html

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
http://www.olbph.org

I Can Connect
www.icanconnect.org

National Center on Deaf-Blindness
https://nationaldb.org

Oklahoma School for the Blind
http://osb.k12.ok.us

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
www.osd.k12.ok.us

New View Oklahoma
https://nvoklahoma.org

DEAFNESS

Deafness is a hearing impairment so severe that a child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

American Society for Deaf Children
www.deafchildren.org

The Deaf Resource Library
www.deaflibrary.org

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
https://www.nidcd.nih.gov

Oklahoma Association of the Deaf
www.ok-oad.org

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
www.osd.k12.ok.us

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

For children from birth to age 3 (under IDEA Part C) and children from ages 3 through 9 (under IDEA Part B), the term developmental delay, as defined by each state, means a delay in one or more of the following areas: physical development; cognitive development; communication; social or emotional development; or adaptive [behavioral] development.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html

National Association for the Education of Young Children
http://naeyc.org

Parent Center Hub
www.parentcenterhub.org/dd

EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE

Emotional disturbance is a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance:

(a) An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors.

(b) An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers.

(c) Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances.

(d) A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression.

(e) A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems. The term includes schizophrenia.

The term does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted, unless it is determined that they have emotional disturbances.

Division for Emotional & Behavioral Health
www.debh.exceptionalchildren.org

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
www.aacap.org

INTEGRIS Mental Health Oklahoma
https://integrisok.com/Services/Line/Mental-Health-and-Psychiatry

National Institute on Mental Illness (Oklahoma)
www.namioklahoma.org

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
www.ok.gov/odmhsas

HEARING IMPAIRMENT

Hearing impairment is an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance but is not included under the definition of deafness.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/hearing-loss-organizations-and-associations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/links.html

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Intellectual disability is significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Center for Parent Information and Resources
www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/intellectual/

Down Syndrome Association of Oklahoma
dsaco.org

National Down Syndrome Society
www.ndss.org

National Down Syndrome Congress
www.ndsccenter.org

Oklahoma Special Olympics
www.sook.org

MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

Multiple disabilities are simultaneous impairments (such as intellectual disability-blindness, intellectual disability-orthopedic impairment, etc.), the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in a special education program solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blindness.

Center for Parent Information and Resources
https://www.parentcenterhub.org/multiple

The National Association for the Dually Diagnosed
www.thenadd.org

Special Education Guide
https://www.specialeducationguide.com/disability-profiles/multiple-disabilities

TASH
www.tash.org

ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT

Orthopedic impairment is a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly, impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis) and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

Cerebral Palsy Guidance
https://www.cerebralpalsyguidance.com

Project IDEAL
http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/orthopedic-impairments

OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT

Other Health Impairment involves having limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment and meets two criteria:

(a) It is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia and Tourette syndrome.

(b) It adversely affects a child's educational performance.

CHADD
www.chadd.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/asthma/default.htm

Epilepsy Foundation
www.epilepsy.com

Institutes of Health
www.nih.gov

Project IDEAL
www.projectidealonline.org/v/health-impairments

Tourette Association of America
www.tourette.org

SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY

Specific Learning Disability is a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations.

The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and developmental aphasia.

The term does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing or motor disabilities; of intellectual disability; of emotional disturbance; or of environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage.

Center for Parent Information and Resources
www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/ld

Center on Instruction
www.centeroninstruction.org

LD Online
www.ldonline.org

Learning Disabilities Association of America
https://ldaamerica.org/educators

Project IDEAL
http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/specific-learning-disabilities

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT

Speech or language impairment includes communication disorders such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
http://www.asha.org

Center for Parent Information and Resources
http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/speechlanguage

Cleft Palate Foundation
http://www.cleftline.org

Project IDEAL
http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/speech-language-impairments

The Stuttering Foundation
http://www.stutteringhelp.org

Institutes of Health
www.nih.gov

Project IDEAL
www.projectidealonline.org/v/health-impairments

Tourette Association of America
www.tourette.org

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Traumatic brain injury is an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech.

The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

Brainline
http://www.brainline.org

International Brain Injury Association
https://www.internationalbrain.org

National Association of Special Education Teachers
https://www.naset.org/professional-resources/exceptional-students-and-disability-information/traumatic-brain-injury-and-neurological-impairment

National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury
https://tbi.vcu.edu

Project IDEAL
http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/traumatic-brain-injury/

VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS INCLUDING BLINDNESS

Visual impairments including blindness are impairments in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults
https://actionfund.org

Center for Disease Control Facts About Vision Loss
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/VisionLossFactSheet.pdf

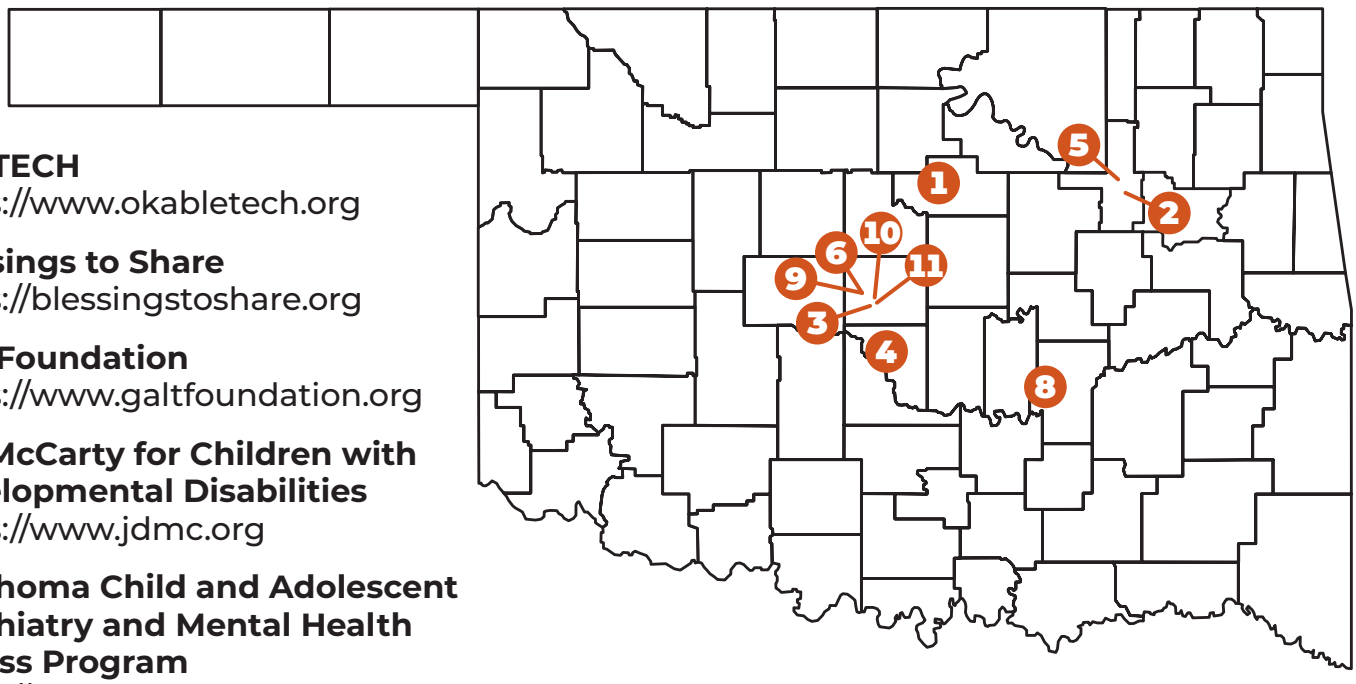
New View Oklahoma
www.newviewoklahoma.org

Oklahoma School for the Blind
osb.k12.ok.us

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
http://www.library.state.ok.us

Perkins School for the Blind
www.perkins.org

ADDITIONAL OKLAHOMA-BASED RESOURCES



1. **AbleTECH**
https://www.okabletech.org

2. **Blessings to Share**
https://blessingstoshare.org

3. **Galt Foundation**
https://www.galtfoundation.org

4. **J.D. McCarty for Children with Developmental Disabilities**
https://www.jdmc.org

5. **Oklahoma Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health Access Program**
https://www.okcapmap.org

6. **Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services**
www.okdrs.gov

7. **Oklahoma Inclusive Post Secondary Education Alliance (OKIPSE)**
https://www.okipsealliance.org
**No physical location*

8. **Oklahoma Parents Center**
www.oklahomaparentscenter.org

9. **Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council**
https://orc.okstate.edu

10. **Oklahoma State Department of Education**
https://sde.ok.gov/special-education

11. **University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center – Oklahoma Self-Advocacy Network (OKSAN)**
https://ouhsc.edu/thecenter/Projects/Training-and-Collaboration/OKSAN

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Contact us at 405-743-5162

Follow us

CCD website: **okcareer.tech/ccd**

Oklahoma's Premier Online Career Development System: **OKCareerGuide.org**

Source: http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/categories/

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