

Categories of Disabilities

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

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>.



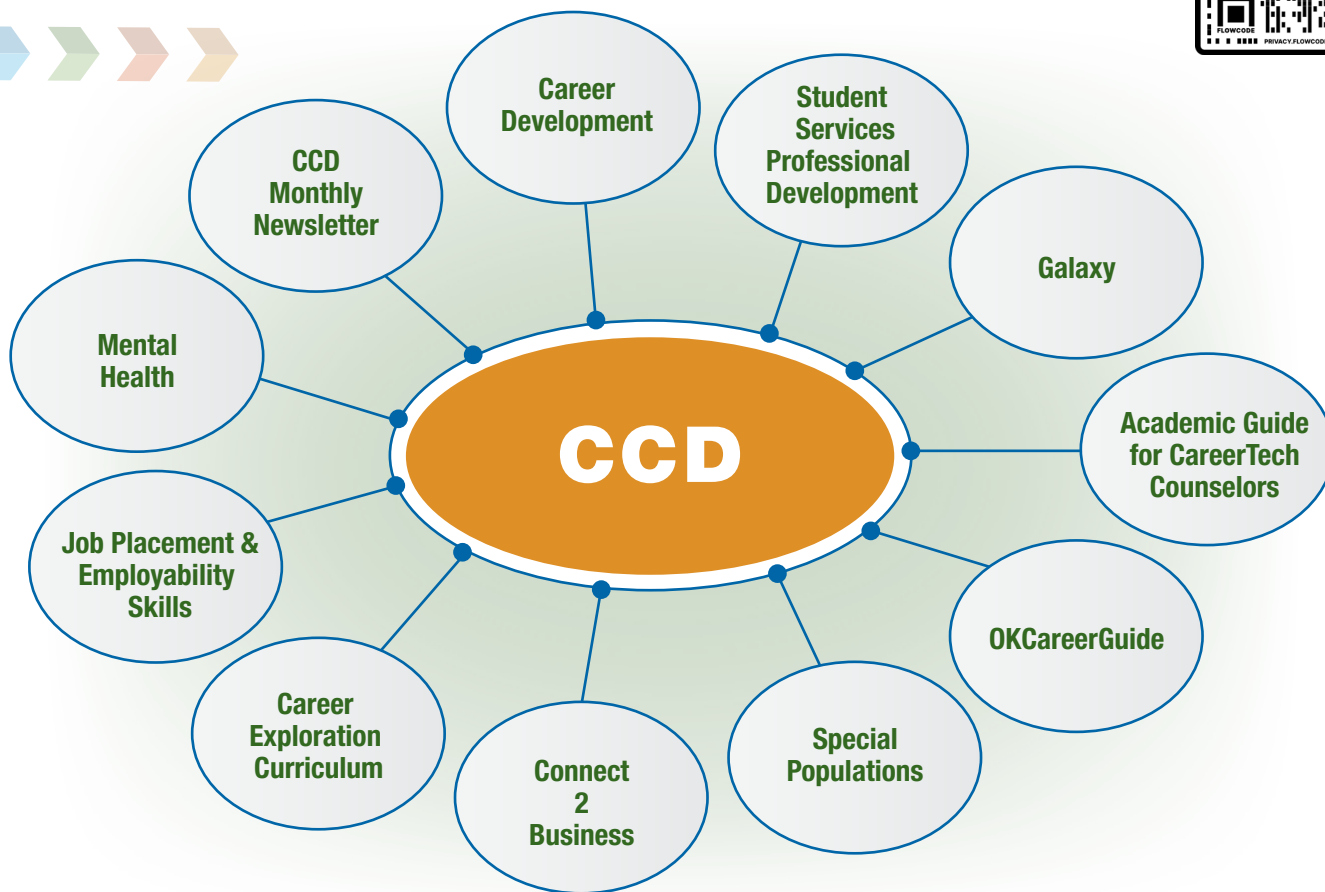
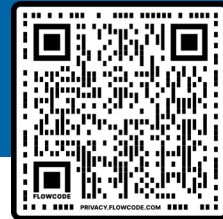
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➤ Autism

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.

A New Leaf
anewleaf.org

Autism Foundation of Oklahoma
autismfoundationok.org

Autism Society of America
autismsociety.org

Autism Speaks
autismspeaks.org

National Autism Association
nationalautismassociation.org

Oklahoma Autism Network
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)
oklahoma.gov/okdrs/job-seekers/sbvi.html

Oklahoma Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project
ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/deaf-blind-project

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
oklahoma.gov/olbph.html

I Can Connect
icanconnect.org

Liberty Braille
libertybraille.com

National Center on Deaf-Blindness
nationaldb.org

New View Oklahoma
nvoklahoma.org

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

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



► 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

deafchildren.org

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

nidcd.nih.gov

Oklahoma Association of the Deaf

ok-oad.org

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

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

cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html

Center for Parent Information and Resources

parentcenterhub.org/dd

National Association for the Education of Young Children

naeyc.org



➤ 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.

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
aacap.org

Council for Exceptional Children
exceptionalchildren.org/topics/emotional-and-behavioral-disorders

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

National Institute on Mental Illness - Oklahoma
namioklahoma.org

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
oklahoma.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
asha.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/communication-resources/index.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

parentcenterhub.org/intellectual/

Down Syndrome Association of Oklahoma

dsaco.org

National Down Syndrome Society

ndss.org

National Down Syndrome Congress

ndsccenter.org/

Oklahoma Special Olympics

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

parentcenterhub.org/multiple/

TASH

tash.org

The National Association for the Dually Diagnosed

thenadd.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

cerebralpalsyguidance.com

Project IDEAL

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.

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
chadd.org

Epilepsy Foundation
epilepsy.com

National Institutes of Health
nih.gov

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

Tourette Association of America
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
parentcenterhub.org/repository/ld

LD Online
ldonline.org

Learning Disabilities Association of America
ldaamerica.org/educators

Project IDEAL
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
asha.org

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

Cleft Palate Foundation
cleftline.org

National Institutes of Health
nih.gov

Project IDEAL
projectidealonline.org/v/speech-language-impairments/

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

Tourette Association of America
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
brainline.org

International Brain Injury Association
internationalbrain.org

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

National Resource Center for Traumatic Brain Injury
tbi.vcu.edu

Project IDEAL
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
actionfund.org

Liberty Braille
libertybraille.com

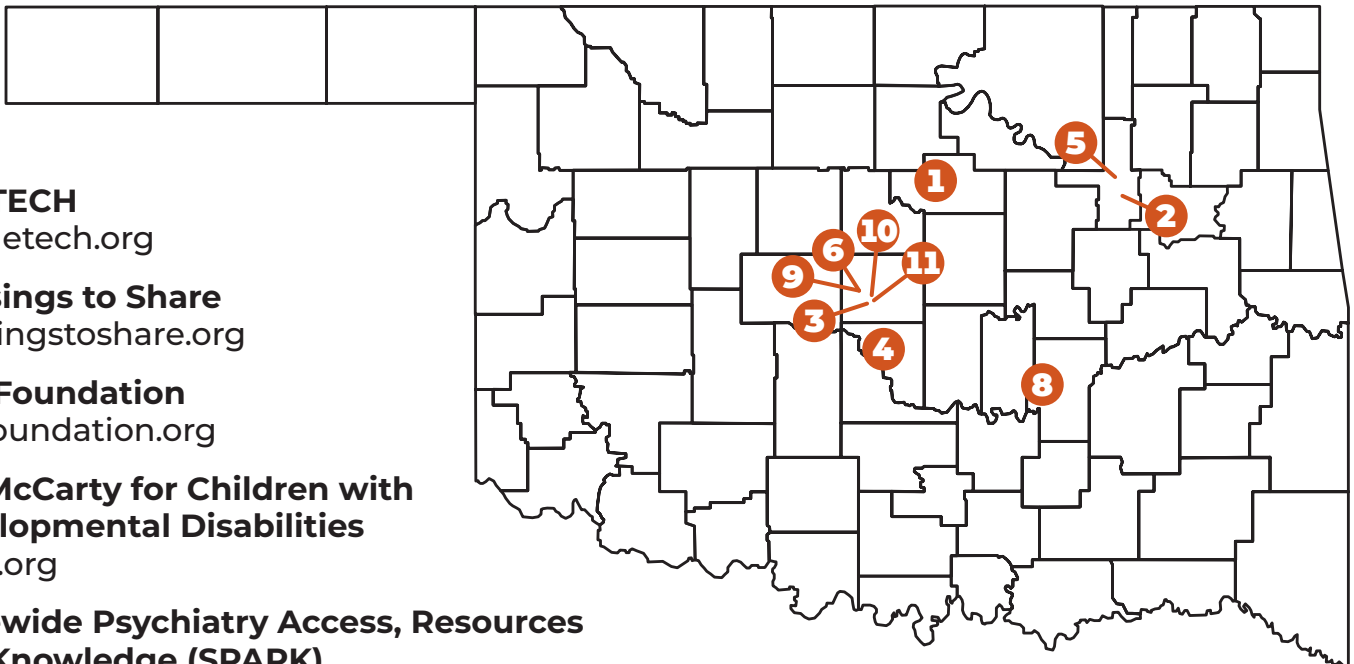
New View Oklahoma
newviewoklahoma.org

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
oklahoma.gov/olbph.html

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

Perkins School for the Blind
perkins.org

ADDITIONAL OKLAHOMA-BASED RESOURCES



1 AbleTECH
okabletech.org

2 Blessings to Share
blessingstoshare.org

3 Galt Foundation
galtfoundation.org

4 J.D. McCarty for Children with Developmental Disabilities
jdmc.org

5 Statewide Psychiatry Access, Resources and Knowledge (SPARK)
okspark.org

6 Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
okdrs.gov

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

8 Oklahoma Parents Center
oklahomaparentscenter.org

9 Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council
orc.okstate.edu

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

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



Contact us at 405-743-5162

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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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