

FACT SHEET



Speech or Language Impairment

Evaluation for Special Education

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in 2004, includes important procedures which schools must use when evaluating eligibility for special education services. An initial evaluation involves the use of a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information to assist in determining if the child is eligible for special education. A two-pronged test for eligibility is used in making the determination: (1) whether the child is a child with an exceptionality (disability or giftedness) as defined in federal and state laws and regulations; and (2) by reason thereof, has a need for special education and related services. Having information, assessments, or diagnosis from sources external to the school is

helpful but is not sufficient to determine eligibility for special education under IDEA.

A child must NOT be determined to be a child with an exceptionality if: (a) the determinant factor is: lack of appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction (defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency including oral reading skills, and reading comprehension strategies); lack of appropriate instruction in math; or Limited English proficiency; and (b) the child does not otherwise meet the eligibility criteria as a child with an exceptionality.

Speech or Language Impairment

Speech or language impairment means a communication disorder, including stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment, that



adversely affects a child's educational performance.

More Information and Resources

[KSDE Kansas Special Education Process Handbook](#)

[KSDE Kansas Eligibility Indicators](#)

[American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\)](#)

[Council for Exceptional Children](#)

[National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities \(NICHCY\)](#)

For more information, contact:

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