

FACT SHEET



Multiple Disabilities

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.

Multiple Disabilities

Multiple disabilities means coexisting impairments, the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that those needs cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one



of the impairments. The term shall not include deaf-blindness.

More Information and Resources

[KSDE Kansas Special Education Process Handbook](#)

[KSDE Kansas Eligibility Indicators](#)

[Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)

[National Organization for Rare Disorders \(NORD\)](#)

[Research and Practice for Individuals with Severe Disabilities](#)

[TASH \(national\)](#)

For more information, contact:

Special Education
1-(800) 203-9462 (Kansas Residents Only)
(785) 291-3097
Special.Education@ksde.gov



Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.gov

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