

DONNA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION OPERATING PROCEDURES: SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT

DONNA ISD Board Policy along with these *Special Education Operating Procedures* constitute the Policies and Procedures of DONNA ISD, designed to be consistent with the State policies and procedures developed pursuant to the IDEA. DONNA ISD *Special Education Operating Procedures* are not to be for the purpose of creating a requirement that is not otherwise imposed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (“IDEA”), together with its implementing federal regulations, state statutes and rules, as they shall from time to time be amended, and shall not be construed to create a higher standard than that established by IDEA. These *Special Education Operating Procedures* will be posted on DONNA ISD’s website. These *Special Education Operating Procedures* should be interpreted consistent with the IDEA. DONNA ISD’s *Special Education Operating Procedures* are reviewed and updated, as needed, on at least an annual basis. DONNA ISD will make timely changes to policies and procedures in response to IDEA amendments, regulatory or rule changes, changes to state policy, or new legal interpretation as are necessary to bring DONNA ISD into compliance with the requirements of IDEA. DONNA ISD maintains systems to ensure that all students with disabilities residing in the District, including students with disabilities attending non-public schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and provided a free appropriate public education. DONNA ISD maintains systems to ensure that students with disabilities and their parents are afforded the procedural safeguards required under the IDEA (and its implementing federal regulations, state statutes and rules) including with respect to the confidentiality of records and personally identifiable information.

SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT

A speech or language impairment includes communication disorders, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, expressive or receptive language impairment, or voice impairment that adversely affects a student’s educational performance.¹

The group of qualified professionals that collects or reviews evaluation data in connection with the determination of a student's eligibility based on a speech or language impairment must include a certified speech and hearing therapist, a certified speech and language therapist, or a licensed speech/language pathologist.²

The group of qualified professionals conducting an evaluation of a student suspected of having a speech or language impairment will conduct assessments and observations, and collect data, as necessary for the ARD Committee to make an eligibility determination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

In Texas, eligibility is determined by the student’s Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee.³ The phrase *multidisciplinary team* refers to the group of District staff tasked with using a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, academic and

¹ 34 C.F.R. § 300.310(c)(11)

² 19 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 89.1040(c)(10)

³ 19 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 89.1040(b); 19 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 89.1050(a)(5)

developmental information about the student, including information provided by the parent, as part of the special education evaluation process.⁴ For more information, please contact Special Education Director.

Demonstrations of this procedure's implementation may include, but are not limited to, examples such as:

- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support or Response to Intervention Data
- Student specific data collection and monitoring
- Observation data
- Evaluation reports
- Collection of information from parents and independent service providers
- ARD committee reports

⁴ 34 C.F.R. § 300.306