



# Special Education Support: Steps to Determine Eligibility

Determining whether a student qualifies for special education services involves a structured evaluation process guided by federal and state regulations. Public schools, including both district and charter schools, must consider three key criteria to determine eligibility.

## 1. Does the student qualify under one of the 13 disability categories recognized in Special Education?

These categories are:

- Autism
- Deafblindness
- Developmental Delay
- Emotional-Behavioral Disability
- Hearing Impairment/Deafness
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
- Speech-Language Impairment (formerly Communication Disorders)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Visual Impairment (including blindness)

For more details about each category, please visit the [Utah State Board of Education's website](#).

## 2. Does the disability impact the student's learning and participation in school activities?

Eligibility also depends on whether the student's unique learning needs impact their involvement in classroom activities, their progress in the general curriculum or participation in everyday school activities.

## 3. Does the student need special education services to be successful in school?

Finally, the school team will determine whether the student needs specially designed instruction and services to support their unique needs and help them succeed in their educational environment. The school team considers whether these needs present barriers to learning or participation in typical classroom activities.

For additional guidance, contact the Utah Parent Center:

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