

FACT SHEET



Intellectual Disability

What is an Intellectual Disability?

An intellectual disability is a disability that manifests before age 18 and is characterized by significant limitations in two main areas: intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior.

"Intellectual Disability" means significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, which adversely affects a child's educational performance (K.A.R. 91-40-1(oo)).

These limitations will cause an individual to learn and develop more slowly, as well as, affect the individual's conceptual, social and practical everyday living skills. An intellectual disability is diagnosed with standardized tests of intelligence and adaptive behavior. Many individuals with an intellectual disability are mildly affected; living independent and productive lives in the community with support from family, friends and agencies.

Intellectual Disability is the most common developmental disability. One in every ten children who need special education have some form of intellectual disability.

Intelligence

Intelligence refers to a general mental capability to reason, plan, solve problems, think abstractly, comprehend complex ideas, learn quickly, and learn from experience. Trained professionals administer standardized test to obtain an Intelligence Quotient (IQ). Intellectual disability is represented by an IQ test score of approximately 70 or below.

Adaptive Behavior

Adaptive behaviors are those skills needed to live, work, and play in the community. Limitations in adaptive behavior affect a person's daily life and affect the ability to respond appropriately.

Skills include:

- communicating with others;
- daily living skills;
- social skills; and
- reading, writing, and basic math.

Causes of Intellectual Disabilities

- genetic conditions (Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, and phenylketonuria (PKU));
- problems during pregnancy;
- problems at birth;
- health problems (diseases like whooping cough, measles, or meningitis); and
- injury, disease or problem in the brain cause intellectual disabilities.

Educational Considerations

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that special education and related services be made available free of charge to every eligible child with a disability (age 3-21). The school staff will work with the family to develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Services are specially designed to meet the child's individual needs. The level of help and support that is needed will depend on the severity of the disability.



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- Supplementary aids and services are supports that may include instruction, personnel, equipment, or other accommodations that enable children with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled peers to the maximum extent possible.
- Accommodations are supports and services provided to help a student access the general education curriculum and validly demonstrate learning. Accommodations do not alter what the test or assignment measures. Examples of Accommodations: Time - extend the time allotted to take a test, finish an assignment, learn a concept, or complete an activity.
- Modifications change the learning goal for an individual student, they change what the student is taught or expected to do.
- Transition planning early for the student's transition into adulthood. Transition must begin no later than 16 years of age.

Resources

Kansas Special Education Process Handbook <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=598>

KSDE Eligibility Indicators <https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SES/misc/iep/EligibilityIndicators.pdf>

KSDE SETS <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=506>

Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) <https://ksdetasn.org/>

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) Disability Fact Sheet #8) - Intellectual Disabilities
<https://www.nathanielshope.org/images/Docs/ResourceMental%20Retardation%20Fact%20Sheet%208.pdf>

For more information, contact:

Special Education and Title Services Team
 1-(800) 203-9462 (Kansas Residents Only)
 (785) 296-7454
specialeducation@ksde.org



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

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