



Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship

Determining Developmental Delay Eligibility

As many children receive a diagnosis of "developmental delay" at the pre-school level, it is important to inform parents regarding the definition of developmental delay and an appropriate, current, and correct diagnosis. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) defines "developmental delay" as:

§ 300.8 Child with a disability.

...(b) *Children aged three through nine experiencing developmental delays. Child with a disability* for children aged three through nine (or any subset of that age range, including ages three through five), may, subject to the conditions described in § 300.111(b), include a child—

- (1) Who is experiencing developmental delays, as defined by the State, and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas:
Physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development and
- (2) Who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

To determine a child's eligibility, the evaluation team (ETR) must decide that the determinant factor for the decision is not due to a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math or limited English proficiency. The evaluation team must use a three-part eligibility requirement process to identify a child who is developmentally delayed and must consider the following:

- Does the child meet the developmental delay disability criteria as defined in the Ohio Operating Standards?
- [Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities](#)
- Is there documentation of an adverse effect on the child's educational performance?
- Is there evidence that the child needs special education and related services?

When a child is eligible for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship under the Developmental Delay category the **primary disability** that was the basis for their special education eligibility must be used within the Electronic Application System to define the primary disability condition in conjunction with a note stating the child is a child with a Developmental Delay.

For example: if the child was found to be a student that qualified for special education services with a developmental delay due to a communication delay, they would qualify under the speech category. You would select Speech and Language Impairments and leave a note stating the child is a child with a Developmental Delay.

The categories of eligibility under the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship are as follows:

1. Speech & Language
2. Specific Learning Disability/Intellectual Disability or OHI Minor
3. Hearing Impaired or Emotional Disturbance
4. Vision Impaired or OHI Major
5. Orthopedic Impairment or Multi-handicapped
6. Autism, Traumatic Brain injury, or Hearing and Vision impaired

****Do not select Developmental Delay in the primary disability condition dropdown. If you select DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY in the drop down there is NO funding category attached.***