

* Please see PGASD's Special Education Plan at the bottom of this page.

What types of disability might qualify a child for special education and related services?

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), children qualify for special education and related services if they have one or more of the following disabilities and, as a result, demonstrate a need for special education and related services: mental retardation, hearing impairments including deafness, speech or language impairments, visual impairments including blindness, serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, autism including pervasive developmental disorders, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, and specific learning disabilities. If a child has one or more of the above mentioned disabilities, the child could qualify for special education and related services. In addition, the child must also need special education as determined by an evaluation team. Your child must meet both qualifications in order to be eligible for special education in Pennsylvania.

The legal definitions of these disabilities which the public schools are required to apply under the IDEA may differ from those used in medical or clinical practice. Moreover, the IDEA definitions could apply to children with disabilities that have very different medical or clinical disorders.

Note: Children who have disabilities that substantially limit their participation in or access to school programs, but who do not need special education, may qualify for reasonable accommodations in the regular classroom under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other Pennsylvania education regulations. The rules – called Chapter 15– that apply are different from those for students needing special education who qualify by meeting the two part criteria listed above.

[PGASD Special Education Plan](#)