

Frequently Asked Questions about the Speech or Language Impairment Criteria and Making Eligibility Determinations During a Re-Evaluation

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions regarding the speech or language impairment criteria during a re-evaluation.

1. Does a child need to meet the eligibility criteria for a speech or language impairment when determining continued eligibility during a 3-year re-evaluation?

When reevaluating a child with a disability IEP teams must address eligibility criteria. In doing so, the IEP team would determine if the child's delayed speech or language skills continue to significantly affect the child's educational performance to the extent specially designed instruction or related service may be required. If the IEP team documents a significant effect or impact on the child's academic achievement or functional performance due to the child's continued delayed speech or language skills the team may decide to continue service. Conversely if the IEP team cannot document a significant effect or impact on the child's academic achievement or functional performance due to the child's speech or language skills, then the child is no longer eligible for continued service.

2. Is more than one norm referenced test required for eligibility during a reevaluation?

If upon review of existing data, the IEP team determines there is sufficient information to make a continuing eligibility decision, no additional testing is needed. The regulations also do not require that standardized testing be done for a reevaluation.

3. How do we complete the speech or language impairment eligibility criteria worksheet when doing a reevaluation when the student does not meet the eligibility criteria but continues to have a delay that significantly affects academic achievement and functional performance?

When using the eligibility checklist, the IEP team would check off the items, identify the evaluation as a reevaluation, and state the specific findings that justify continued eligibility.

4. Can a re-qualifying criteria sheet for IEP teams to use when determining eligibility on a reevaluation be created?

No. Creating new criteria for a speech and language reevaluation would be inconsistent with the regulations as enumerated in PI11.36 (5) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code so this cannot be done.