

LEARNING DISORDERS

Issue Date: December 5, 1984

Authority: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(3)(ix)

I. DESCRIPTION

A learning disorder is a significant impairment in the development of certain skills that is not accounted for by chronological age, mental age, or inadequate schooling. The learning disorders recognized by the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders are: reading disorder, mathematics disorder, disorder of written expression and learning disorder not otherwise specified. These conditions are also referred to as learning disabilities. A condition is not considered a specific learning disorder if it is a result of or is associated with such conditions as mental retardation, infantile autism or pervasive developmental disorder, visual or hearing impairments, acquired aphasia (normal language followed by onset of language disorder often associated with head trauma, seizures, or EEG abnormalities) or dysarthria (abnormal articulation due to disorders of the oral speech mechanisms or documented neurological abnormalities).

II. POLICY

Services and supplies, provided in connection with a specific learning disorder are not covered. School referrals for testing are not covered. Services related to suspected academic problems or learning disabilities are not covered. Special education of any type is excluded.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Public Law 94-142, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, requires school districts to make diagnostic and evaluation services related to specific learning disorders available to all school-age children within the state.

B. Pub. L. 94-142 also requires the states to provide special education and related services (including speech therapy) for children determined to have a learning disability (specific learning disorder).

C. The Regulation excludes coverage for speech therapy for developmental language and articulation disorders.

D. A specific learning disorder is not a qualifying condition for eligibility under the Program for Persons with Disabilities (formerly known as Program for the Handicapped).

E. Psychological testing for diagnosed specific learning disorders is not covered. See Chapter 1, Section 12.6.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE **November 13, 1984.**

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