

# Head Start Program Performance Standards on Services for Children with Disabilities

## DEFINITION:

Definition of Children with Disabilities means children with mental retardation, hearing impairments including deafness, speech or language impairments, visual impairments including blindness, serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments or specific learning disabilities; and who, by reason thereof, need special education services.

The term children with disabilities for children age 3-5, inclusive, may, at a State's discretion, include children 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 who, by reason thereof, need special education and related services.

## HEAD START

- Must develop a disabilities service plan for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities and their parents to assure that all components of Head Start involved in the integration of children with disabilities and their parents and that resources are used efficiently.
- Head Start is responsible to make available directly or in cooperation with other agencies, services in the least restrictive environment in accordance with the individualized education program (IEP) for at least **10% of enrolled** children who meet the disabilities eligibility criteria.
- Local level interagency agreements.
- Designate a Disabilities Coordinator
- Assure that maximum services are provided by the LEA
- Can only serve **10% over income** children