

## **Cognitive Disability Eligibility Criteria**

**Definition:** (a) A cognitive disability:

- (1) is manifested during the developmental period;
- (2) is characterized by significant limitations in cognitive functioning;
- (3) is demonstrated through limitations in adaptive behavior; and
- (4) adversely affects educational performance.

(b) A student with a mild cognitive disability has cognitive functioning that generally:

- (1) falls three (3) standard deviations below the mean; and
- (2) manifests delays in adaptive behavior consistent with the moderate cognitive disability.

(c) A student with a moderate cognitive disability has cognitive functioning that generally:

- (1) falls three (3) standard deviations below the mean; and
- (2) manifests delays in adaptive behavior consistent with the moderate cognitive disability.

(d) a student with a severe cognitive disability has cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior skills that generally:

- (1) falls four (4) or more standard deviations below the mean; and
- (2) manifests delays in adaptive behavior consistent with the severe cognitive disability.

(e) Eligibility for special education as a student with a cognitive disability shall be determined by the student's CCC. This determination shall be based on the multidisciplinary team's educational evaluation report described in 511 IAC 7-40-5(e), which includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the following:

(A) Cognitive ability and functioning that must include at least one (1) of the following:

- (i) An individually administered norm-referenced assessment.
- (ii) If adequate information cannot be obtained via an individually administered norm-referenced assessment, a criterion-referenced assessment that:

(AA) has been designed or may be adapted or modified for use with students who have a cognitive disability; and  
(BB) is administered by a professional or team of professionals with knowledge of assessment strategies appropriate for the student

(B) Current academic achievement as defined at 511 IAC 7-32-2.

(C) Functional skills or adaptive behavior across various environments from multiple sources.

- (2) A social and developmental history that may include, but is not limited to, the following:
- (A) Communication skills.
  - (B) Social interaction skills.
  - (C) Motor Skills.
  - (D) Responses to sensory experiences.
  - (E) Relevant family and environmental information.
- (3) any other assessments and information, collected prior to referral or during the educational evaluation, necessary to:
- (A) determine eligibility for special education and related services; and
  - (B) inform the student's CCC of the student's special education and related services needs.