

## **DEAFNESS**

### **1. Definition**

Deafness means a hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The child has:

- (1) an inability to communicate effectively due to Deafness; and/or
- (2) an inability to perform academically on a level commensurate with the expected level because of Deafness; and/or
- (3) delayed speech and/or language development due to Deafness.

### **2. Evaluation**

The characteristics identified in the Deafness Definition are present.

#### Evaluation Procedures

Evaluation of Deafness shall include the following:

- (1) audiological evaluation;
- (2) evaluation of speech and language performance;
- (3) school history and levels of learning or educational performance;
- (4) observation of classroom performance; and
- (5) documentation, including observation and/or assessment, of how Deafness adversely impacts the child's educational performance in his/her learning environment.

#### Evaluation Participants

Information shall be gathered from the following persons in the evaluation of Deafness:

- (1) the parent;
- (2) the child's general education classroom teacher;
- (3) a licensed special education teacher;
- (4) a licensed physician or audiologist;
- (5) a licensed speech/language teacher or specialist; and
- (6) other professional personnel, as indicated.