



# SPREAD THE WORD: DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) Office of Special Education has provided this guidance within a series of important topics of special education as a requirement by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs.

This resource provides a look into the eligibility category of developmental delay, discussing the specific criteria that is required for developmental delay eligibility.

511 IAC 7-41-6  
**Developmental delay** is a disability category solely for students who are:

At least three years old and less than nine years old.

A new eligibility **MUST** be determined and implemented **BEFORE** the student's ninth birthday.

**Eligibility shall be determined by 511 IAC 7-41-6 (b)**

511 IAC 7-41-6  
**Developmental delay** means a delay of either **two standard deviations below the mean** in one of the following developmental areas or **one and one-half standard deviations below the mean** in any two of the following developmental areas:

## Developmental Areas

Gross or fine motor development

Cognitive development

Receptive or expressive language development

Social or emotional

Assessment of developmental areas via norm referenced assessment

Social and developmental history

Developmentally relevant medical information

A vision and hearing screening

Systematic observation across various environments

**Other eligibility categories may be appropriate and should be considered**