

Emotional Disability

Federal Definition

Emotional disturbance (includes schizophrenia but does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted unless it is determined that they have an emotional disturbance): A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over an extended period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance:

- a. An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors;
- b. An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers;
- c. Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances;
- d. A general pervasive mood of anxiety, unhappiness or depression; or
- e. A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

State Definition

The Illinois definition is the same as the federal definition stated above.

Diagnostic Criteria

Determinant Factors If the student is not succeeding due to (a) lack of scientifically based practices and programs that contain the essential components of reading, (b) lack of instruction in math, or (c) Limited English Proficiency, the student is not eligible for services under IDEA.

Exclusionary Criteria Disability cannot be due to environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantages.

Inclusionary Criteria One or more of the following must be indicated:

- An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors;
- An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers;
- Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances;
- A general pervasive mood of anxiety, unhappiness or depression; or
- A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

In addition, the following criteria must be indicated and supported by intervention data:

- Present over an extended period of time in multiple settings
- Exhibited frequently, with intensity and severity, over an extended period of time.

Adverse Effect Student's IEP requires individual statement of adverse effect.

Adversely affects educational performance including academic achievement, acquisition and execution of social skills and/or interpersonal relationships within the school setting.