

Under the old policy, a student would be identified with Autism if they had 3 of the 4 characteristics:

- (A) Impairment in communication;
- (B) Impairment in social interaction;
- (C) Unusual response to sensory experiences;
- (D) Restricted, repetitive, or stereotypic patterns of behavior, interests, and/or activities

The disability must:

- (A) Have an adverse effect on educational performance, and
- (B) Require specially designed instruction.

The New Policy is a bit more complicated:

A. Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts, manifested by ALL

THREE of the following:

- 1) Deficits in social-emotional reciprocity
- 2) Deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviors
- 3) Deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships

AND

B. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities, manifested by **AT LEAST 2 of the following:**

- Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech
- Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior
- Highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus
- Significantly atypical responses to sensory input or significantly atypical interests in sensory aspects of the environment.

AND

C. Above symptoms present in the early developmental

period (but may not manifest until social demands exceed coping capacities)

The disability must:

(A) Have an adverse effect on educational (academic and/or functional) performance, and

(B) Require specially designed instruction.