

# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## DEAFBLINDNESS ELIGIBILITY

The July 2002 Rules of the Administration of the Exceptional Children's Education Act (ECEA) state:

### **2202-R-2.00 DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA**

Unless otherwise indicated by the context, the following definitions and criteria shall apply to the administration of the Exceptional Children's Educational Act:

#### **2.02 Children with Disabilities**

Children with disabilities shall mean those persons between the ages of three and twenty-one who are unable to receive reasonable benefit from regular education without additional supports in the public schools because of specific disabling conditions. A child shall not be determined to have a disability due to a lack of instruction in reading or math or limited English proficiency. A child upon reaching his/her third birthday becomes eligible for services as of that date. A child reaching the age of 21 after the commencement of the academic year has the right to complete the semester in which the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday occurs or attend until he/she graduates, whichever comes first. In such a case, the child is not entitled to extended school year services during the summer following such current academic year. Children with disabilities may also mean those persons from birth to age three as defined in Section 2.02 (10) of these rules.

2.02(8) A child with multiple disabilities shall have two or more areas of significant impairment, one of which shall be a cognitive impairment except in the case of deaf-blindness. Cognitive impairment shall mean significant limited intellectual capacity. The other areas of significant impairment include: physical, visual, auditory, communicative or emotional. The combination of such impairments creates a unique condition that is evidenced through a multiplicity of needs which prevent the child from receiving reasonable educational benefit from regular education.

2.02(8)(a) The definition of impairment shall be the same as that for each of the single disabilities.

2.02(8)(b) Criteria for multiple disabilities preventing a child from receiving reasonable educational benefit from regular education shall be the same as that considered for each of the

single disabilities. Indicators for the combination of impairments creating a unique condition shall be:

- 2.02(8)(i) Inability to comprehend and utilize instructional information.
- 2.02(8)(ii) Inability to generalize skills consistently.
- 2.02(8)(iii) Inability to communicate fluently.
- 2.02(8)(b)(iv) Inability to demonstrate problem solving skills when information is presented in a traditional academic curriculum.