Cognitive Impairments and Learning Disabilities

General Information
“If we are to achieve a richer culture, we must weave one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.”

Margaret Meade
What is a Cognitive Disability?

- A Cognitive Disability:
  - Is manifested during the developmental period
  - Is characterized by significant limitations in cognitive functioning
  - Is demonstrated through limitations in adaptive behavior; and
  - Adversely affects educational performance.
Different types of Cognitive Disabilities

- **Mild Cognitive Disability**
  
  A student has cognitive functioning that generally falls two (2) standard deviations below the mean and manifests delays in adaptive behavior consistent with the mild cognitive disability.
Different types of Cognitive Disabilities

- **Moderate Cognitive Disability:**
  - A student has cognitive functioning that generally falls three (3) standard deviations below the mean and manifest delays in adaptive behavior consistent with moderate cognitive disability.
Different types of Cognitive Disabilities

- **Severe Cognitive Disability:**
  - A student has cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior skills that generally falls four (4) standard deviations below the mean and manifests delays in adaptive behavior consistent with the severe cognitive disability.
Did you Know?

Intellectual disability is one of the most common developmental disability. It is estimated that seven to eight million people in the United States have an intellectual disability, which means that 1 in 10 families are affected. *

More than 425,000 children (ages 3-21) have some level of intellectual disability and receive special education services in public school under this category in IDEA, the nation’s special education law. **

In fact, 7% of the children who need special education have some form of intellectual disability. ***

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What does this mean?

- Your child will receive services as a student with a cognitive disability.
  - Your child will participate in the school in their Least Restrictive Environment. This means that they will be with their non-disabled peers to the fullest extent possible.

- You will meet at least yearly with your child’s IEP team in which you will:
  - Discuss services and the needs of your child.
  - Discuss transition planning if your child is age 14 or older
  - Create goals for the school year. These goals could be in the areas of:
    - Academics
    - Behavior
    - Employment
    - Speech/language
    - Social Skills
      - Each area is geared towards the specific needs of each child.
What is a Learning Disability?

- A Specific Learning Disability (SLD):
  - “Specific learning disability” means a disorder in one (1) or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that adversely affect that student’s educational performance, including conditions referred to, or previously referred to, as perceptual handicaps, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.
Did you Know?

- 2.4 million students are diagnosed with specific learning disabilities (SLD) and receive services under IDEA. This represents 41% of all students receiving special education services.*
- 75% - 80% of special education students identified as LD have their basic deficits in language and reading***
- 60% of adults with severe literacy problems have undetected or untreated learning disabilities**

* National Center for Education Statistics  
**National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities Center  
***National Institutes of Health
What does this mean?

- Your child will receive services as a student with a specific learning disability.
  - Your child will participate in the school in their Least Restrictive Environment. This means that they will be with their non-disabled peers to the fullest extent possible.

- You will meet at least yearly with your child’s IEP team in which you will:
  - Discuss services and the needs of your child.
  - Discuss transition planning if your child is age 14
  - Create goals for the school year. These goals could be in the areas of:
    - Academics
    - Life skills
    - Behavior
    - Employment
    - Speech/language
    - Social Skills
      - Each area is geared towards the specific needs of each child.
I have more questions...

- If you have more questions or would like more information please contact your child’s Teacher of Record for more information.
- Please refer to our school website for more information on how to contact someone.
- https://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/special_education/

- Visit some of these great websites:
  - https://ldaamerica.org/parents/
  - http://www.aboutspecialkids.org/
  - https://www.rileychildrens.org/departments/center-for-youth-adults-with-conditions-of-childhood
  - http://insource.org/