

# Autism



## 19 TAC §89.1040(c)(1). Eligibility Definitions.

A student with autism who has been determined to meet the criteria as stated in 34 CFR, §300.8(c)(1):

*Autism means a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences.*

*Autism does not apply if a child's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has an emotional disturbance, as defined in paragraph (c)(4) of this section.*

*A child who manifests the characteristics of autism after age three could be identified as having autism if the criteria in paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section are satisfied.*

Students with pervasive developmental disorders are included under this category. The team's written report of evaluation must include specific recommendations for behavioral interventions and strategies.