

# OPERATING PROCEDURES

## NONCATEGORICAL EARLY CHILDHOOD

Goose Creek CISD

101911

Template update May 2020

Legal Framework: NONCATEGORICAL EARLY CHILDHOOD

[Related Resources](#)

Broad Category: EVALUATION

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### PROCEDURES:

#### NON-CATEGORICAL EARLY CHILDHOOD (NCEC)

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#### 19 TAC § 89.1040(c) (13)

Under IDEA, younger students (ages 3-9) may be eligible for special education and related services under a broader category called “Developmental Delay.” In Texas, this category is called Non- Categorical Early Childhood (NCEC).

#### Evaluation Procedures

The child must be assessed in all areas of suspected disability. The Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee (“ARDC”) that collects or reviews evaluation data in connection with the determination of the child’s eligibility based on non-categorical must include the applicable members for intellectual disability, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, or autism. The evaluation data reviewed by the ARDC in connection with that determination of the child’s disability based on non-categorical must comply with the applicable evaluation procedures of auditory impairment and visual impairment.

A student may be described as NCEC if the child:

1. is between the ages of three to five; and
2. has been evaluated as having intellectual disability, emotional disturbance, a specific learning disability, or autism.

*\*\*If NCEC is being utilized as the eligibility criteria, it MUST be noted as the Primary Disability in the ARD Document.*

In Texas, a child under the age of six that meets eligibility criteria with the disability of ID, ED, LD, or AU could qualify for this category of disability.

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#### Additional GCCISD Guidance

##### **When would it be used?**

This criterion is typically used when a child meets the eligibility criteria, but it is the opinion of the evaluation team that there may be other factors contributing to the child's functioning. An example of this is a child who is evaluated at age three and prior to the evaluation the child may have had limited experiences outside of the home setting. Evaluation data indicates the child is functioning in the range of an intellectual disability; however, the evaluators cannot determine the extent to which the limited experiences are contributing to the child's current functioning. Therefore, the evaluation team may determine that NCEC is the primary disability.

##### **When must you reevaluate?**

The eligibility criteria in 19 TAC § 89.1040(13) states that this eligibility category is only appropriate if the child is between three and five years of age. This means that the child must be reevaluated and have an ARD prior to the child's sixth birthday regardless of whether the three-year reevaluation is due.

##### **How do I keep track of this?**

You must review the student rosters at your campus and determine which students have the non-categorical eligibility. You need to keep track of this information and make sure you get it done! If a PEIMS report is run and a child turns six and is NCEC it will produce a fatal error. At that point, you will be notified from the special education office that the evaluation is overdue.

##### **Must I complete an Autism supplement if the child is non-cat AU?**

Yes. The child is regarded as having the condition of autism, so the supplement is required.

#### **STAFF RESPONSIBLE:**

**District Level:** Coordinator for Assessment and Initial Evaluation Team

**Campus Level:** Campus Based Evaluators

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### TIMELINES FOR IDENTIFYING DISABILITY CONDITIONS:

- Initial evaluation timelines apply
- Reevaluations – REED meeting should be held no earlier than 60-75 days prior to the three-year re-evaluation due date.

### EVIDENCE OF PRACTICE:

- eSped Forms
- List of qualified evaluators with appropriate licenses and certifications
- Copies of evaluations