

FLUENCY

A fluency impairment is defined as the abnormal flow of verbal expression. It is characterized by impaired rate and rhythm of connected speech and may be accompanied by struggle behavior. (i.e. facial grimace, secondary characteristics including eye blink)

Consideration must be given to the student's chronological age and perception of the problem by the student and parents, the contextual situations in which the student functions and the overall impact on educational performance.

A student is not eligible for special education and related services in the area of speech and language (fluency) impairment when disfluencies

1. Are part of normal speech development,
2. Do not cause the speaker to modify behavior,
3. Do not interfere with the student's ability to benefit from education.

A tape-recorded sample of minimum of 100 words or 200 syllables from 2 different situations- reading, monologue or connected speech- is recommended to determine eligibility and severity. The sample should be taken from a variety of circumstances and/or settings.