

## VOICE

A voice impairment is defined as any deviation in pitch, intensity, quality, or other attribute which consistently interferes with communication; draws unfavorable attention; adversely affects the speaker or the listener; or is inappropriate to the age, sex or culture of the individual. Voice quality may be affected by either organic or functional factors.

Consideration must be given to age, sex, environment, and perception of the problem by the student, parents, speech language pathologist, and other school personnel or medical specialists.

**A student is not eligible for special education and related services in the area of speech and language (voice) impairment when vocal characteristics:**

1. Are without a prior medical consultation;
2. Are the results of temporary physical factors such as allergies, colds, abnormal tonsils, or adenoids, short term vocal abuse or misuse;
3. Are the results of regional, dialectic or cultural differences;
4. Do not interfere with the student's ability to benefit from education