

Low Incidence Disability - Updated 8/14/2020

Low Incidence Disability is defined as a severe disabling condition with an expected incidence rate of less than one percent of total statewide enrollment in special education. Ed code sections relevant to Low Incidence funding and accountability are listed below.

Low Incidence Disabilities include:

- Hard of Hearing (HH)
- Deafness (DEAF)
- Visual Impairment (VI)
- Orthopedic Impairment (OI)
- Deaf-Blindness (DB)

Low Incidence (LI) funds are for use on behalf of students certified as having an LI primary or secondary disability through the assessment and IEP process. The funds are provided to each SELPA by CDE and are listed with other special education entitlements on the Funding Exhibits. The allocation of LI funds to the SELPA is based on the prior year CALPADS Census submission in the categories listed above.

220	Hard of Hearing (HH): Hard of Hearing means hearing impairment, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance, but that is not included under the definition of "deaf" in this section.
230	Deafness (DEAF): Deafness means a hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, which adversely affects educational performance. Hearing Impairment (HI): Hearing Impairment is a federal category of disability, which includes both hard of hearing and deaf individuals as defined above. (34 CFR §300.7(c)(3))
250	Visual Impairment (VI): Visually Impaired, including blindness, means impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partially seeing and blind children. (34 CFR §300.7(c)(13))
270	Orthopedic Impairment (OI): Orthopedic Impairment means a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by congenital anomaly (e.g., clubfoot, absence of some member, etc.); impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, etc.); and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns which cause contractures). (34CFR §300.7(b) and 300.7(c)(8))
300	Deaf Blindness (DB): Deaf-Blindness means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness. (34 CFR §300.7(c)(2))

*If you have a student with Multiple Disabilities and one eligibility is a Low Incidence disability then make sure to list the Low Incidence disability as Secondary Disability in order to generate funds.

Low Incidence funds are for materials and/or services for students with an LI disability. The requirement to track equipment has changed, but it is recommended that LEAs consider a tracking and monitoring system for equipment purchased with these funds. The LEA or SELPA may consider the following ([CDE, 2014](#)) when purchasing materials and/or funding services through LI Funding. The materials and services should be:

- Required for the student to meet IEP goals and objectives;
- Required for the student to access general education;
- Specialized as it relates to a need or the needs of the LI disability;
- Identified in a comprehensive evaluation completed by credentialed staff or a provider and who is knowledgeable of the LI disability area(s).

There are currently no specific tracking or documentation of expenditure of funds, but please ensure that students have an appropriate eligibility category and appropriate services on their IEPs. LEAs may wish to consider utilizing Function Codes in SACS software for services or personnel in order to have internal documentation of

expenditures, as the Annual Budget Plan does ask for Low Incidence expenditure estimates for each year.

Service Codes

The IEP team determines the services for the student. A student must have a service code identified in their IEP that is appropriate to the service that is being provided. A student with a specified LI disability typically has one or more of the following as noted below, all of which are allowable services to be funded with LI funds:

610	Specialized Services for LI Disabilities: LI services are defined as those provided to the student population of orthopedically impaired (OI), visually impaired (VI), deaf, hard of hearing (HH), or deaf-blind (DB). Typically, services are provided in education settings by an itinerant teacher or an itinerant teacher/specialist. Consultation is provided to the teacher, staff and parents as needed. These services must be clearly written in the student's IEP, including frequency and duration of the services to the student. (Title 5 §3051.16 & 3051.18)
710	Specialized Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services: These services include speech therapy, speech reading, auditory training and/or instruction in the student's mode of communication. Rehabilitative and educational services; adapting curricula, methods, and the learning environment; and special consultation to students, parents, teachers, and other school personnel may also be included. (Title 5 §3051.16 and 3051.18)
715	Interpreter Services: Sign language interpretation of spoken language to individuals, whose communication is normally sign language, by a qualified sign language interpreter. This includes conveying information through the sign system of the student or consumer and tutoring students regarding class content through the sign system of the student. (Title 5, §3051.16)
720	Audiological Services: These services include measurements of acuity, monitoring amplification, and frequency modulation system use. Consultation services with teachers, parents or speech pathologists must be identified in the IEP as to reason, frequency and duration of contact; infrequent contact is considered assistance and would not be included. Title 5 §3051.2)
725	Specialized Vision Services: This is a broad category of services provided to students with visual impairments. It includes assessment of functional vision; curriculum modifications necessary to meet the student's educational needs, including Braille, large type, and aural media; instruction in areas of need;

755	Transcription Services: Any transcription service to convert materials from print to a mode of communication suitable for the student. This may also include dictation services as it may pertain to textbooks, tests, worksheets, or anything necessary for instruction.
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Reference Education Code

EC §56320(g) requires that: "The assessment of a pupil, including the assessment of a pupil with a suspected low incidence disability, shall be conducted by persons knowledgeable of that disability. Special attention shall be given to the uni