

Compliance Issues:

SLI students with academic/other needs;
Students who are Gifted and another disability category

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1. Question: What do we do for a student who is coded SLI but has needs beyond speech therapy (e.g., math, language arts, behavior, etc.)?

Answer: The question suggests that the SAT process, the initial evaluation, or the student's initial IEP team may have missed areas of suspected disability. Remembering the order of IEP decision-making (data drives the PLAAFP, the PLAAFP drives goals, goals drive services, and services drive placement), the following steps should be taken:

1) An IEP team meeting should be called. 2) The team will review all currently existing data, especially from regular education teacher(s) regarding areas where the student is struggling. 3) If the currently existing data are insufficient for decision-making and/or if the team believes the student may have the incorrect disability category, the IEP team may ask for a new evaluation (and/or act as a *de facto* SAT team and request that interventions be implemented if SLD is suspected). 4) After obtaining all necessary data, the team will ensure that the student's disability category is correct, and if it is not, change it. 5) The team will revise the PLAAFP to reflect the new data. 6) The team will develop new goals based on any new areas of need. 7) The team will revise or add services to address the new goals. 8) The team will review placement to ensure it is the most appropriate placement for implementing the new services the student is to receive.

If this student (whether or not he/she remains SLI or is changed to another category) receives services beyond the realm of speech therapy, the speech therapist ceases to be the caseload teacher; the student is placed on the caseload of a special education teacher, and the speech therapist becomes a related service provider.

2. Question: If a student is Gifted and another disability category (e.g., SLI, SLD, OH, OI, etc.) which one should be entered as the primary disability category?

Answer: To avoid confusion, the federal disability category (SLI, SLD, OH, OI, etc.) should *always* be entered as the primary disability category, with Gifted (state disability category) as the secondary. This is because there are reporting and procedural requirements (e.g., the SPP Indicators, Graduation Options other than the Standard Option) that do *not* apply to gifted-*only* students but *do* apply to students who are gifted and another disability category.