**Hearing Impairment, including Deafness**

Deafness means a hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. (34 CFR Sec. 300.8(c)(3))

Hearing impairment means an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance but that is not included under the definition of deafness in this section. (34 CFR Sec. 300.8(c)(5))

**Eligibility Determination**

In New Mexico, the terms deafness and hearing impairment are combined into one eligibility category called Hearing Impairment, including Deafness. (Subsection B (2) of 6.31.2.7 NMAC).

The New Mexico TEAM (DEC. 2017) guidelines were followed for this current assessment. Based on current assessments and data from multiple sources:

1. A lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math  a determinant factor.
2. Limited English proficiency a determinant factor;
3. eligibility category better describes the child’s disability; and
4. Current assessment and evaluation revealed the student  meet requirements of the hearing impairment, including deafness definition.