



QUICK GUIDE: THREE PRONG TEST



THE THREE PRONG TEST OF ELIGIBILITY

Once the evaluation team has gathered all existing information and results of new formal or informal assessments, the team will use that information to determine whether the student meets the three prong test of eligibility. It is important to note that in order to determine a student eligible for special education services, the student must meet **all three** prongs.

TEAM CONSIDERATIONS

Prong 1:

Evidence from the evaluation and assessment results that demonstrate how the student meets the criteria for the identified category or categories.

- The team has listed or summarized the evidence that the student meets the criteria for the suspected eligibility category.
- The team has used more than one assessment or measure to determine eligibility.

*For more information, please review the *Eligibility Category Quick Guide*.

Prong 2:

Evidence of adverse effect on educational performance.

- The team provides a statement that outlines the student’s educational performance is **significantly and consistently** below the level of same-age peers, **preventing the student from benefiting from general education.**
- The statement should be specific to the student, based on assessment results, and notes the impact of the student’s disability in the educational setting.

Prong 3:

Evidence for the need for changes to content, methodology and/or delivery of instruction.

- The team provides a student specific statement that clearly describes the changes needed to:
 - Content (knowledge/skills); AND/OR
 - Methodology (strategies/approaches); AND/OR
 - Delivery (how instruction is provided)
- **Reminder:** The purpose of specially designed instruction is to enable the student to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum.