

# Educational Policies Related to Language Disorders in Alberta



**Inclusive educational framework:** Alberta's educational framework is a value-based approach that emphasizes the universal acceptance of, and belonging for, every child and student.

**Special education categories:** Alberta's Special Education Coding Criteria outlines the criteria under which children in kindergarten through Grade 12 are eligible for a "code" (i.e., diagnostic label).



Students must receive their code from a qualified professional (i.e., educational psychologists and speech-language pathologists).

- mild (i.e., 7th to 9th percentile)
- moderate (i.e., 3rd to 6th percentile)
- severe (i.e., 2nd percentile and below)

**Recognizing speech and language disorders:** in Alberta, language disorders are categorized by severity (e.g., mild, moderate, or severe).

For children in Grades 1-12, a student with a Communication Disability/Disorder communicates ineffectively with their peers and adults because of a diagnosed mild to moderate disability in expressive and/or receptive language.

*Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a persistent language difficulty that interferes with a child's learning, understanding, and communication and is not explained by other conditions (e.g., hearing loss, autism) or extenuating circumstances (e.g., lack of exposure to language).*

DLD affects a child's learning, understanding, and communication; however, their language difficulties will differ from child to child.

**LEARN MORE AT: [dldandme.org](http://dldandme.org) & [radld.org](http://radld.org)**

No provinces or territories use the term DLD (QC uses a synonym)

DLD affects about 2 children in every classroom