

## **Specific Learning Disabilities - Learning and Other Cognitive Disabilities**

Definition: The term “specific learning disability” (SLD/LD) means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to:

- Listen
- Speak
- Read
- Write
- Spell
- Do mathematical calculation

The term includes such conditions as:

- Perceptual handicaps
- Brain injury
- Minimal brain dysfunction
- Dyslexia
- Developmental aphasia

The term does not include (persons) who have learning disabilities that are primarily the result of:

- Visual, hearing or motor handicaps
- Mental retardation
- Emotional disturbance
- Environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage

Documentation:

Verification of a diagnosis of Learning Disabilities must be made by a certified professional licensed to diagnose and treat learning disabilities and preferably one who has experience in working with adults. All sections of the form must be completed or the request will be returned without approval.

Process:

Requests for accommodations are submitted on *Request for Testing Accommodations: Learning and Other Cognitive Disabilities, Form 8051*. Permission from the Florida GED Administrator is required for requested accommodations to standard testing based on learning disabilities.

## **Common Interventions in Testing Environment for Adults with Learning and Other Cognitive Disabilities**

Reading Disability (Dyslexia):

- Additional time, usually time and a half
- Double time, if condition is profound
- Large print edition
- Audiocassette edition

Written Language (Dysgraphia):

- Scribe to write the essay dictated by the candidate
- Scribe to fill in bubbles on the answer sheet, if learning disabilities affects sense of space and direction

Mathematics Disability (Dyscalculia):

- Calculator if learning disabilities affects math calculation but not reasoning