**Autism**

Autism means a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences. Autism does not apply if a child’s educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has an emotional disturbance as defined in 34 CFR Sec. 300.8(c)(4). A child who manifests the characteristics of autism after age three could be identified as having autism if the criteria described in paragraph 34 CFR Sec. 300.8(c)(1)(i) are satisfied. (34 CFR Sec. 300.8(c)(1))

**Characteristics and Educational Impact**

Children who are eligible for special education and related services under the category of autism have a disability that adversely affects their involvement and progress in the general curriculum, including extracurricular and non-academic activities, or their participation in developmentally appropriate activities.

**Eligibility Determination**

When considering whether a child qualifies under the eligibility category of Autism the following eligibility criteria was documented in this evaluation:

* Whether there is evidence that lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math is a determinant factor.
* Whether there is evidence that the child has had the opportunity to participate in developmentally appropriate early childhood experiences (Preschool only);
* Whether Limited English proficiency is a determinant factor;
* Whether the child’s educational performance is adversely affected primarily because of an emotional disturbance;
* Whether any other eligibility category better describes the child’s disability; and
* Whether the assessment and evaluation demonstrate that the child meets the requirements of the autism definition.

Based on the New Mexico TEAM (Dec. 2017) and this current assessment,        meet the requirements of the Autism definition.