1. **Definition – Deafness**
   - 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; the student exhibits **one (1) or more** of the following characteristics:
     - an inability to communicate effectively due to Deafness;  
     - an inability to perform academically on a level commensurate with the expected level due to Deafness;  
     - delayed speech and/or language development

2. **Definition – Hearing Impairment**
   - an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance but does not include Deafness; the student exhibits **one (1) or more** of the following characteristics:
     - inability to communicate effectively due to a Hearing Impairment  
     - inability to perform academically on a level commensurate with the expected level because of a Hearing Impairment  
     - delayed speech and/or language development due to a Hearing Impairment

3. **Evaluation Procedures**
   - audiological evaluation
   - evaluation of speech and language performance
   - evaluation of school history and levels of learning or educational performance
   - observation of the child's auditory functioning and classroom performance
   - documentation (observation and/or assessment) of how Deafness or Hearing Impairment adversely impacts the child's educational performance in his/her learning environment