

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES
INFO PAGE

BORDERLINE INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING (BIF)

BIF is a **developmental disability** that *occurs at birth or during the “developmental period” shortly before or after birth*. There are nearly four million Americans with developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities are severe, chronic disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairment resulting in substantial limitations in three or more areas: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency, as well as the continuous need for individually planned and coordinated services. (Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402)

Students with BIF are usually characterized by *significantly subaverage intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with related limitations in two or more of the following applicable skill areas: communication, self-care, home living, social skills, community use, self-direction, health an safety, functional academics, leisure and work*. This disability manifests in early childhood. It is of lifelong duration, and it is likely that supports will be needed over an extended period of time. Virtually all persons with mental retardation will improve in their functioning as a result of effective supports and services. This improvement will enable them to be more independent, productive, and integrated into their community.

The student with a BIF may require a variety of services, including the following: tutorial services, special academic advisement, basic skill remediation, assistance in organization and development of adequate study skills, additional program accommodation or modification and possibly a personal aide in the classroom. Appropriate program modifications and use of auxiliary aids appropriate for a developmentally delayed student include the following: readers, scribes, note takers, extended time policies for assignments and tests, and taped books or lectures. These services are designed to equalize opportunities, not to lower the academic standards for the students or to alter the essential nature of the degree requirements.