

# Learning Ally

## Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are the 4 qualifying categories in Teacher Ally and which students should be classified in each category?

#### Reading Accommodation

Students who struggle with reading, who are not responding to instructional interventions, or who need a reading accommodation to keep up with course content while working to improve reading skills. A competent authority should conduct student observations, assessments, and a review of student work to determine if the student's reading skill deficits are consistent enough to prohibit accessing standard texts at the expected benchmarks for the student's grade.

#### Specific Learning Disability

Students who have a specific learning disability, meaning a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations. It includes conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. Students in this category often have SLD on their IEP or have a diagnosed learning disability.

#### Blind or Visually Impaired

Students who are blind or visually impaired.

#### Other Physical Disability

Students who have a physical impairment that prevents them from reading standard print, such as can't hold a book, turn the pages of a book, etc.

### 2. Do ELL, ESL, or ESOL students qualify to receive audiobooks from Learning Ally?

No. Learning English does not qualify an individual to receive Learning Ally audiobooks; however, if an ELL, ESL, or ESOL student exhibits the characteristics of a learning disability, has a diagnosed learning disability, has a physical disability that prohibits the use of standard print, or is blind or visually impaired that individual can be deemed eligible by a Competent Authority. Visit the link below to view the chart for information on how audiobooks support an ELL, ESL, or ESOL student who exhibits the characteristics of a learning disability, or has a reading disability.

([https://www.learningally.org/Portals/6/Docs/TeacherResources/Learning%20AllyandELL\\_ESL\\_ESOL.pdf](https://www.learningally.org/Portals/6/Docs/TeacherResources/Learning%20AllyandELL_ESL_ESOL.pdf))

### 3. Can all students have access to Learning Ally?

No. Only students that have been deemed eligible by a Competent Authority within the guidelines of Learning Ally Terms of Service are eligible for access to Learning Ally audiobooks.

### 4. If a student has an IEP or 504, does that automatically qualify them for Learning Ally?

No. A student must exhibit the characteristics of a learning disability, have a diagnosed learning disability, be blind or visually impaired or have a physical impairment that prohibits the use of standard print. IEP and 504 are legal designations and do not automatically qualify a student; however, it is very likely that students who qualify for access to Learning Ally audiobooks will fall into these legal designations.

## Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

### 5. Do students in Tiers 2 or 3 of the RTI process or MTSS qualify for Learning Ally?

Just like an IEP and 504, RTI (Response to Intervention) and MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) are procedural designations to support students. Procedural and legal designations do not qualify an individual. What qualifies an individual is that they exhibit characteristics of a learning disability, have a diagnosed learning disability, are blind or visually impaired or have a physical impairment that prohibits the use of standard print, as determined by a Competent Authority.

### 6. Does the Competent Authority need to submit documentation for an eligible student in a school?

No. It is the sole responsibility of the Competent Authority and the school to maintain all documentation of formal and informal assessments, observations, and student work. The Competent Authority will select the appropriate designation in Learning Ally's educator portal.

### 7. Is there a difference between a Competent Authority and a certifier?

- Competent Authorities are those individuals within the school or district who have received specialized training in special education, reading and literacy, visual impairments, medicine, etc.
- The Competent Authority will be classified as a certifier in the educator portal.

### 8. Do individuals with other significant disabilities such as ADD/ADHD, autism, intellectual disabilities, other health impairments, or the emotionally disturbed qualify for Learning Ally?

No. These disabilities in and of themselves do not qualify; however, if the individual also exhibits the characteristics of a learning disability, has a diagnosed learning disability, has a physical disability that prohibits the use of standard print, or is blind or visually impaired, a Competent Authority can make the determination to certify the individual.

### 9. If an individual has a temporary condition that affects their ability to read standard print, can they get access to Learning Ally?

Yes. If a Competent Authority has determined that the condition prohibits access to standard print, the individual can receive services for the duration of the temporary condition.

### 10. What is Learning Ally's Privacy Policy?

Visit [LearningAlly.org/Privacy](https://www.learningally.org/Privacy) to read the policy.

### 11. What are the state by state policies for dyslexia?

[Click here for a state by state breakdown](#) or visit <http://www.dyslexicadvantage.org/progress-passed-dyslexia-laws-in-the-united-states-2016/>

### 12. How do Learning Ally audiobooks support students in reading and gaining access to content?

Visit [LearningAlly.org/Educator/Resources](https://www.learningally.org/Educator/Resources) to find materials on how Learning Ally audiobooks support reading development.