**IDEA Disability Category Comparison Template**

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| **Disability Category** | **Definition** | **Characteristics** | **Causes** | **Prevalence** | **Potential Effect on Learning** |
| Autism | Autism is a developmental disability that affects communication (verbal and nonverbal) and social skills. | -Difficulty communicating and interpreting motives and cues of others  -Not comfortable with change  -Poor social skills  -May engage in the same activity over and over (SARRC, n.d.) | The causes of Autism are not clear, but has something to do with brain development before birth | Autism is one of the fastest growing disabilities. Prevalence has changed to 1 in 68 children in U.S. (Autism Society, 2016, para. 2) | Difficulty with written expression. Reading comprehension, math problem solving, fine and gross motor skills may also be affected, over and under selective attention |
| Deaf-Blind |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deafness |  |  |  |  |  |
| Developmental Delay |  |  |  |  |  |
| Emotional Disturbance |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hearing Impairment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Intellectual Disability |  |  |  |  |  |
| Multiple Disabilities |  |  |  |  |  |
| Orthopedic Impairment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other Health Impairment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Specific Learning Disability |  |  |  |  |  |
| Speech or Language Impairment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Traumatic Brain Injury |  |  |  |  |  |
| Visual Impairment Including Blindness |  |  |  |  |  |