

# Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What are the 3 qualifying categories in which students are eligible for Learning Ally?

**Reading Deficit:** A reading deficit is determined by a student's need for a reading accommodation due to an impairment in decoding, fluency and/ or comprehension that does not allow a student to keep up with content at the same level as students without an impairment. An IEP or 504 is not required.

**Blind or Visually Impaired:** Blind persons whose visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses, or whose wide diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees. A person with a visual impairment has a visual deficit with correction that prevents him/her from reading standard printed material.

**Other Physical Disability:** Students who have a physical impairment that prevents them from reading standard print, such as those who are unable to hold a book, turn the pages of a book, etc. Students with Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, or Muscular Dystrophy are examples of individuals who may qualify under this category.

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

No. Learning English does not qualify an individual. The Learning Ally Audiobook Solution is a tool to support students with reading deficits. Being an English Learner does not qualify a student as having a reading deficit. Qualified educators are able to identify English Learners with reading deficits in their primary language and make the program available to them. English Learners who also have reading deficits in their primary language can qualify for and make effective use of the Learning Ally Audiobook Solution.

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

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

## 4. Does a student need an IEP or 504 to qualify?

No. An IEP or 504 is not required to qualify. IEP and 504's are legal and procedural 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 and procedural designations.

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

No. A student must qualify with a reading deficit, be blind or visually impaired or have a physical disability. IEP and 504's 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.

## 6. 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. A student must qualify with a reading deficit, be blind or visually impaired or have a physical disability, as determined by a Qualified Educator.

## 7. Does the Qualified Educator need to submit documentation for an eligible student in a school?

No. It is the sole responsibility of the Qualified Educator and the school to maintain all documentation of formal and informal assessments, observations, and student work. The Qualified Educator will select the appropriate designation in the online Educator Portal system.

## 8. If an individual has a temporary condition, can they get access to Learning Ally?

Yes. If a Qualified Educator has determined that the condition qualifies the student in one of the three categories, the individual can receive services for the duration of the temporary condition.

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

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

## 10. Do students with any of the following conditions qualify for Learning Ally?

- Social/emotional disturbance
- Environmental or economic disadvantage
- Cultural and linguistic factors such as limited english proficiency
- Insufficient instruction or opportunity to learn

No, the aforementioned factors may be present in students with a reading deficit but can not be the exclusive reason for eligibility. However a student who experiences any of these conditions and **also has a reading deficit, is blind or visually impaired and/or has a physical disability** as determined by a Qualified Educator/Evaluator, the student will qualify for Learning Ally.