



# MCIU

## AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER SERVICES

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NAVIGATING THE  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
HEARING AND  
UNDERSTANDING



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT**, a regional educational service agency, provides dynamic, visionary leadership and effective, efficient services for the county's 22 public school districts and more than 150 nonpublic schools.

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## AUDITORY PROCESSING AND THE MCIU

The MCIU is excited to offer Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) support to the school districts of Montgomery County. The audiologist can support your student from initial diagnosis to implementation of strategies for use within the classroom. It is the goal of the MCIU to assist in the success of your students diagnosed with APD.

### DEFINITION

APD is a disorder that refers to the inability of an individual to take in a verbal message and assign meaning to that message. It is NOT the inability to hear, but the inability to interpret, organize or analyze what is heard.

### COMMON INDICATORS

Students with APD may exhibit some of the following behaviors: difficulty understanding speech in noisy environments, difficulty following verbal directions, frequent need for repetition of verbal information, and difficulty discriminating similar sounding speech sounds. It should be noted that APD cannot be diagnosed from a checklist of symptoms. Only a complete diagnostic battery of testing can yield an accurate diagnosis.



## CANDIDACY CRITERIA

A review of the ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) and AAA (American Academy of Audiology) guidelines contributed to the MCIU's pre-evaluation criteria for APD assessment. That criteria includes: age of student (7 years old is the minimum), average cognition, native English speaker, normal hearing, managed ADHD, and absence of significant receptive and/or expressive language delays.

### MCIU PROCESS

If the district would like to proceed with an APD evaluation through the MCIU, please submit a referral for auditory processing evaluation. All student records will be reviewed and a classroom observation will be completed. Following the

evaluation, a full report, including recommendations will be composed and sent to the district. Attendance at evaluation/re-evaluation meetings can be arranged. If any recommendations include a trial period with FM/DM equipment, that trial period will be conducted separately.

If the student has an outside APD evaluation and the district decides to forego additional testing, the audiologist can review records and determine the best course of action for that particular student.