

# THE HIDDEN IMPACT OF Speech Disorders on Academic Success

**SPEECH DISORDERS** can significantly impact a child's ability to communicate and succeed in school. Understanding these challenges and their solutions is key to unlocking a student's full potential.



## How Speech Disorders Affect Learning

**READING COMPREHENSION**  
Difficulty linking sounds.

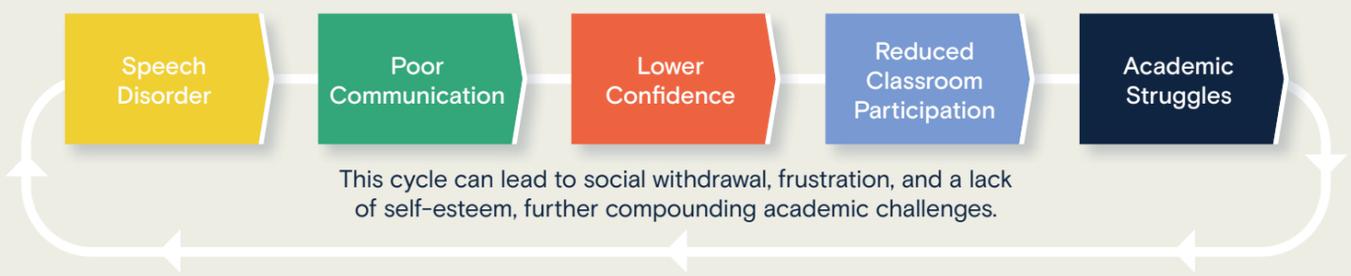
**WRITING SKILLS**  
Verbal challenges affect writing.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**  
Fear lowers participation.

**50%–75%** of children with early speech sound disorders (SSD) experience later academic difficulties.<sup>1</sup>

## The Ripple Effect on Classroom Performance

PATHWAY OF IMPACT:



## Warning Signs to Watch For

- Difficulty pronouncing certain sounds or syllables.
- Trouble following verbal instructions.
- Avoidance of speaking tasks, like reading aloud.
- Frustration when trying to express thoughts.

## Long-Term Implications



**EARLY SIGNS**  
Speech delays hinder development.



**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Reading and writing skills lag.



**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL**  
Communication confidence decreases opportunities.



**ADULTHOOD**  
Speech issues limit career growth.

## School Districts and Families

### FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

- Train educators to identify and support speech-related challenges.
- Implement classroom-based speech interventions to supplement pull-out therapy sessions.
- Hire a diverse network of providers, including bilingual therapists, to ensure students' unique care needs are met.

### FOR FAMILIES:

- Seek early intervention for speech concerns.
- Encourage open communication at home to boost confidence.
- Practice speech exercises regularly in a supportive environment.