

## Is the COS Rating Subjective?

- What is subjectivity?
  - Related to the mind of the rater rather than the nature of the subject being rated.
- COS ratings involve clinical decision-making based on a confluence of data (i.e., data from multiple sources).

## Informed Decisions

- Research on clinical judgment shows that professionals can reach reliable conclusions under certain conditions.
- Conditions:
  1. Operational definitions of the observed attributes (e.g., the 3 outcomes);
  2. Structured rating format to record informed opinion;
  3. Data gathered from multiple sources;
  4. Consensus-decision making process; and
  5. Training to facilitate reliable ratings.

## COS Rating Decisions

“Team decision-making is a viable method for reaching valid conclusions about the abilities/performance of children with disabilities.”

Reference: Greenwood, Walker, Hornbeck, Hebbeler, & Spiker. (2007). TECSE 27:1, 2-18.