



TABLE 6.2 Classification of Intellectual Disability According to Intensities of Support

Support Level	Description	Examples
Intermittent	Supports on an as-needed or episodic basis. Person does not always need the support(s), or person needs short-term supports during life span transitions. When provided, intermittent supports may be of high or low intensity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of employment• Acute medical crisis
Limited	Supports characterized by consistency over time, time-limited but not intermittent; may require fewer staff and less cost than more intense levels of support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job training• Transitioning from school to adult status
Extensive	Supports characterized by regular involvement (e.g., daily) in at least some environments (such as work or home) and not time-limited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing home living assistance
Pervasive	Supports characterized by their constancy and high intensity; provided across all environments, potential life-sustaining nature. Pervasive supports typically involve more staff and intrusiveness than extensive or time-limited supports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chronic medical situation

SOURCE: Adapted from *Mental Retardation: Definition, Classification, and Systems of Supports*, 10th ed. (Washington, DC: American Association on Mental Retardation, 2002), p. 152.