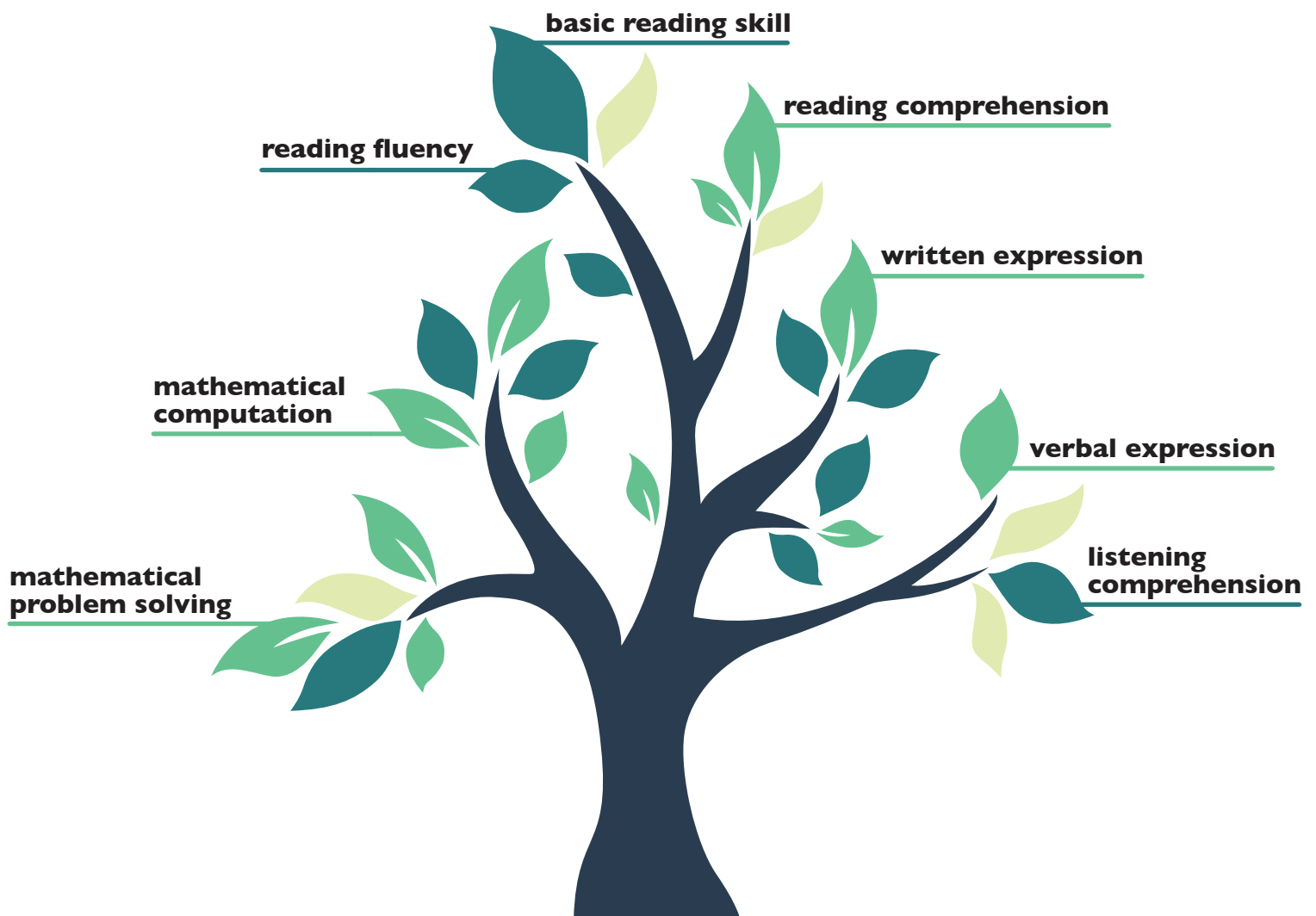


Specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.

SLD is one of the 13 federal categories of disabilities. Nationwide, nearly 40% of students who have been found eligible for special education programs are served under the SLD category. (IDEA, 2004)



Individuals with learning disabilities may experience significant difficulties in one or more areas of educational performance. IDEA (2004) identifies eight areas of underachievement: listening comprehension, verbal expression, basic reading skill, reading fluency, reading comprehension, written expression, mathematical computation, and mathematical problem solving.