

Evaluation

ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT

OCTOBER 2022



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ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT

What Is Required

A student must be assessed under the IDEA in all areas of suspected disability. Orthopedic Impairment or “OI” is one of the areas of eligible disabilities under the IDEA.

A student with an orthopedic impairment is one who has been determined to meet the criteria for orthopedic impairment. Orthopedic impairment means a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects the student’s educational performance. OI includes impairments caused by congenital anomaly; disease, such as poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis; and other causes, such as cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures.

To assess for OI, the District or Campus Assessment Personnel will comply with the general evaluation procedures. See [EVALUATION PROCEDURES]. In addition, a licensed physician must be included in the group of qualified professionals that collects or reviews evaluation data in connection with the determination of a student’s eligibility for special education services based on an orthopedic impairment.

What We Do

If the District and/or the student’s parent suspect the student is exhibiting physical deficits characteristic of orthopedic impairment that adversely affects the student’s educational performance, the student may be referred for an orthopedic impairment evaluation.

District or Campus Assessment Personnel will comply with the procedures set out in state and federal law. See [EVALUATION PROCEDURES]. They will also obtain and review relevant information from the student’s licensed physician(s). If the student does not have a physician, the District and Campus Assessment Personnel must arrange for the student to visit a District-provided physician.

If the student does not meet the eligibility criteria for orthopedic impairment, or any other eligibility criteria under the IDEA, or does not need special education or related services due to his/her disability, Campus Personnel should refer the student to the Campus or District Personnel responsible for compliance with Section 504 to determine whether the student is eligible for accommodations or services as a student with a disability under Section 504.

Evidence of Implementation

- Notice of Evaluation
- Consent for Evaluation
- Referral Information
- Assessment Plan
- ARD/IEP
- FIE
- Documentation from Licensed Physician
- Orthopedic Impairment Evaluation

Resources

[The Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process: Orthopedic Impairment - Region 18](#)

[Orthopedic Impairment - Texas Education Agency](#)

[Orthopedic Impairment - Region 14](#)

[Orthopedic Impairments - Project IDEAL](#)

[Orthopedic Impairment - SPEDTEX](#)

CITATIONS

Board Policy; 34 CFR 300.8(c)(8), 300.304(c)(4); 19 TAC 89.1040(b)–(c)