

Evaluation

OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT

OCTOBER 2022



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OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT

What is Required

The student must be assessed under the IDEA in all areas of suspected disability. Other Health Impairment or “OHI” is one of the areas of eligible disabilities under the IDEA.

A student with Other Health Impairment (OHI) is one who has been determined to meet the criteria for OHI due to chronic or acute health problems. OHI means having limited strength, vitality, or alertness that adversely affects a student’s educational performance. The term “limited alertness” includes a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment. Health problems include, but are not limited to: asthma, attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, and Tourette’s Disorder.

To assess for OHI, the District or Campus Assessment Personnel will comply with the general evaluation procedures. See [EVALUATION PROCEDURES]. In addition, the group of qualified professionals that collects or reviews evaluation data in connection with the determination of the student’s eligibility based on other OHI must include a licensed physician.

What We Do

A referral for an OHI evaluation may be indicated when the District and/or the parent of the student suspects the student is exhibiting health problems characteristics of an OHI that adversely affects the student’s educational performance.

The evaluation will include information about how the health condition affects the student’s educational performance. An OHI form completed by a licensed physician, is required before an ARD Committee can determine that a student is eligible as a student with OHI. If the student has a physician, the Campus or District Assessment Personnel

may request that the student's physician complete the OHI form. The Campus or District Assessment Personnel must request that the parent sign a Consent for Release of Information so that the Assessment Personnel may communicate with the student's physician to complete the OHI form and provide any clarifying information to the ARD Committee. If the parent refuses to sign the release and/or the student does not have a regular physician, the District or Campus Assessment Personnel must arrange for the student to be evaluated by a District-provided physician.

The list of health conditions listed above is not an exhaustive list. A diagnosis of a medical or health condition alone does not determine eligibility for special education services. Not every student with a medical or health condition will meet the eligibility criteria as a student under the OHI category. The medical or health condition must affect the student's educational performance, and, by reason of the health condition, the student needs special education (specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of the student) or related services.

When District Assessment Personnel conduct a reevaluation of a student who has been identified as a student with OHI, an updated OHI form should be obtained from the student's doctor, especially if the student's health problem has changed or has manifested itself in different ways. If the student continues to have a health condition, but it no longer affects the student's educational performance, the student will no longer qualify as a student with a disability under the IDEA.

If the student does not meet the eligibility criteria for OHI, 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

- OHI Form and/or Physician Information
- FIE
- ARD/IEP
- ESPED

Resources

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

[Quick Guide: Other Health Impairment Region 14](#)

[OSEP Letter to Williams \(May 14, 1994\) - U.S. Department of Education](#)

[OSEP Letter to Anonymous \(Jan. 13, 2010\) - U.S. Department of Education](#)

[Other Health Impairment - SPEDTEX](#)

CITATIONS

34 CFR Part 300.8(c)(9), 300.304(c)(4); 19 TAC 89.1040(b)-(c), 89.1050(a)(5)