



Student Services
Health Division

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Procedure for Use of Crutches, Wheelchairs, Cast and Assistive Devices on School Property

Lodi Unified School District recognizes that occasionally students may need the use of assistive devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, casts, walking boot, etc. in order to attend school. There is potential risk, not only to the student but to others if this equipment is not used properly or if steps are not taken to ensure safe use while on campus. Lodi Unified School District will not be responsible for student injuries that occur without a physician's and parent's written statement on file.

Parent/Guardian will submit a completed: "Permission to Return to School with Cast, Crutches, Wheelchair or Other Assistive Device" form, which will:

- Identify the limitations and duration of use before the student will be allowed to use either crutches, wheelchair, cast or other assistive devices.
- Include the anticipated length of time excused from P.E., recess, or other physical activities.
- Indicate the student received instructions on how to safely use these devices.

Only students who have submitted such a document will be permitted into class. Otherwise, the student will be provided a work packet to complete at home or in the school office temporarily.

Parent/Guardian will:

- Supply physician approved equipment appropriate in size for the student. Wheelchairs should have seatbelts & tip bars.
- Notify the school office staff promptly when the student's condition changes.

When the school office staff has received notification a student must use either crutches, wheelchair, or other assistive devices, the following step will be taken:

- Office staff will notify the school nurse when a student requires assistive devices due to an injury or illness. The school nurse will be called to assess the situation if there are questions.

School staff will ensure student safety is maintained by:

- Designating predetermined routes, the student will use to minimize risk from staircase, classroom, or campus obstructions.
- Designating which restroom facilities will be used to ensure the location does not pose a risk to the student.
- Assigning another student to assist, if needed, by carrying the student's books and lunch tray, or for emergency purposes. At the end of the school day, both students will be dismissed five minutes early to facilitate getting to the bus on time and avoiding crowds.

Remember: Only staff members may propel an injured student in a wheelchair.