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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS

“ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS” DEFINITION

The term includes impairments caused by congenital anomaly (e.g., clubfoot, absence of some member, etc.), impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, etc.), and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures) that adversely affects a child’s educational performance.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

One condition from each criterion below must be judged to have been met in order to be eligible for the disability “Orthopedic Impairment.”

A. PHYSICAL/BEHAVIORAL CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

The child has a diagnosis from a medical doctor of one or more of the following orthopedic conditions which is temporary or permanent in nature and may require adaptations in the physical plant:

1. Impairments caused by congenital anomaly, e.g. clubfoot, absence of some member, etc.,
2. Impairments caused by disease, e.g. poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, etc.,
3. Impairments from other causes, e.g. cerebral palsy amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures.

B. ACADEMIC CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

An assessment of motor function in the educational environment (conducted by the physical and/or occupational therapist) must demonstrate the following adverse effects upon educational performance that requires specialized instruction because of:

1. A lack of meaningful and productive participation;
2. Reduced efficiency in school work;
3. Inability to access educational environment despite environmental modifications.

EXCLUSIONARY FACTORS

A student will not be considered eligible for services under Orthopedic Impairment if one or more of the following exist:

1. The adverse effect is from lack of instruction in reading or math that is not related to the health impairment.
2. The adverse effect is environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage as a result of such factors as: English as a second language, limited English proficiency, other cultural values and experiences and experiential differences.
3. The adverse effect is judged to result from absenteeism (unrelated to health) or change in residence or schools.
4. The disability is more accurately described by another category of eligibility.
5. The adverse effect is primarily due to active substance abuse.

EXIT CRITERIA

Exit decisions must be individualized based on current best practice as determined by the appropriate IEP team members. A student is no longer eligible for special services as a student with an Orthopedic Impairment when it is determined that:

1. The disability no longer has an adverse effect on the student's educational performance;
2. The health impairment no longer exists;
3. The student accepts a standard high school graduation certificate upon completion of required goals/objectives and credits;
4. Student completes the school year in which he/she reaches the day before 22 years of age

The determination of continued eligibility or non-eligibility is made at the multidisciplinary meeting on the basis of the reevaluation.