

WHEELCHAIR PROCEDURE ON SLOW COUNTY SCHOOLS

Students may require use of a wheelchair either permanently or temporarily due to mobility problems or a physical condition.

Restrictions: Any student requiring the use of a wheelchair must bring a doctor's note to the school with the following information:

1. Diagnosis and/or reason for the wheelchair.
2. How long the student will require the use of the wheelchair.
3. Physical activity restrictions (PE, recess, etc.).
4. Physician's signature and contact information.

Safety Considerations:

- Inspect the wheelchair daily to make sure that it is in good repair to prevent accidents and malfunctions.
- Always lock the brakes before getting in and out of the wheelchair.
- Lift the footplates up before getting in or out of the chair.
- Do not put heavy loads on the back of the wheelchair to prevent the chair from tipping over backwards.
- Keep loose objects away from the wheel spokes.
- Do not allow other students to push the wheelchair. Wheelchairs should be pushed by a staff member when needed.

Considerations for Wheelchair Use (things to plan for):

1. Assistance in the bathroom.
2. Placement in the classroom for easy exit and entry without blocking others. Make sure carpeting/rugs are secured and are low-pile.
3. Desk height for use while in the wheelchair.
4. Lunchroom placement that will not block other students. Assistance in the lunch line if student is utilizing school lunch.
5. Student may need to leave class and dismiss from school early to prevent hallway congestion.
6. Student may be able to use the wheelchair independently, but may require assistance with books, materials, lunch trays, etc.
7. Evacuation plan for fire drills, tornado drills, etc.

References:

School Procedure Template – Wheelchair (non-powered). 2011. Available at:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation/Pages/policiesprocedures/wheelchairprocedure.doc>

Crutches/Wheelchair and Elevator Use. 2018. Available at: <https://www.wssd.org/Page/80>

Limited Mobility Special Needs Factsheet. 2014. Available at:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/mobility-factsheet.html>

Wheelchair Safety and Maintenance Guidelines and Checklist. Available at:

<https://dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/e4wheelchair.pdf>