ILLINOIS SCHOOL MOBILITY DEVICE & ACTIVITY RESTRICTION POLICY

Illinois public school districts operate under binding statutory legal frameworks established by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois School Code. These regulations govern student mobility tracking, physical exemptions, and district liability limits.

> **Mandatory Regulatory Standard: School personnel cannot legally grant long-term physical accommodations or permit the use of durable medical equipment (such as crutches, wheelchairs, or knee scooters) without explicit, signed documentation from a licensed healthcare provider.**

1. Physical Education and Activity Exemption Mandates (23 IAC 1.425)

Under the Illinois Administrative Code and the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-6), physical education is a mandatory curriculum component. Removal from this requirement is strictly regulated:

- **The Three-Day Parent Threshold:** A written note from a parent or guardian is legally valid to excuse a student from physical education or recess for a maximum of three consecutive days.
- **The Fourth-Day Physician Mandate:** On the fourth consecutive day of physical restriction, local board policies aligned with state frameworks require formal medical authorization from a licensed physician. The note must define the clinical necessity and specific duration of the exclusion.

2. Federal Protections and Section 504 Medical Triggers

Temporary physical impairments (e.g., fractures, severe sprains, post-surgical recovery) that substantially limit walking or climbing stairs fall under the enforcement scope of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

- **Medical Verification:** To legally activate temporary Section 504 accommodations (such as modified passing periods, elevator access, duplicate textbooks, or building escorts), schools require a formal medical evaluation.
- **Objective Frameworks:** Educational institutions lack the legal authority to diagnose physical capabilities or establish structural adjustments without a concrete medical directive mapping out functional limitations.

3. District Liability, Safety, and Operational Protocols

Unverified mobility devices in a public school setting introduce severe safety and operational hazards:

- **Structural Hazards:** Unmonitored or unprescribed assistive devices increase the risk of secondary falls, classroom obstructions, and tripping hazards in high-traffic hallways and stairwells.
- **Liability Allocation:** School staff are not licensed to evaluate whether a student has been properly trained to use an assistive device safely. Official physician orders legally validate the necessity of the device and establish the safe boundaries of its deployment.
- **Standard Intake Protocol:** If a student arrives at a facility with a mobility device but lacks documentation, standard administrative procedure dictates holding the student safely in a monitored health office. Staff must immediately contact the parent or guardian to secure the required medical note, arrange student pickup, or verify that the device is not medically required.

4. Mandatory Physician Documentation Criteria

Valid medical documentation submitted to school health services must explicitly contain:

- The specific nature or clinical diagnosis of the physical limitation.
- The specific type of mobility device authorized for use within the facility.

- Explicit activity restrictions (e.g., complete physical education exemption, weight-bearing limits).
- Definitive start and end dates for the requested structural accommodations.