

Standards for Special Education Evaluation & Eligibility

The following standards for special education evaluation and eligibility shall be effective July 1, 2017.

ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT

I. Definition

Orthopedic Impairment means a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes, but is not limited to, impairments caused by congenital anomaly (e.g. club foot, absence of some member), impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis), and impairments from other causes (e.g. cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

II. Evaluation

The characteristics as identified in the Orthopedic Impairment Definition are present.

Evaluation Procedures

A comprehensive evaluation performed by a multidisciplinary team using a variety of sources of information that are sensitive to cultural, linguistic, and environmental factors or sensory impairments to include the following:

- (1) Medical evaluation of the child's Orthopedic Impairment by a licensed medical provider (i.e., licensed medical physician, physician's assistant or licensed nurse practitioner);
- (2) Individually administered motor evaluation to address mobility and activities of daily living (e.g., maintaining and changing position, safety, movement through building, balance, self-care, eating, vocation/transition);
- (3) Adaptive measure (e.g., communication, social, self-care; hygiene);
- (4) Educational Evaluation (may include individual and/or group educational achievement, classroom observations, criterion-referenced tests, curriculum-based assessments, review of child's existing records, attendance, health); and
- (5) Documentation, including observation and/or assessment, of how Orthopedic Impairment adversely affects the child's educational performance in his/her learning environment and the need for specialized instruction and related services (i.e., to include academic and/or nonacademic areas).

Evaluation Participants

Information shall be gathered from the following persons in the evaluation of Orthopedic Impairment:

- (1) The parent;

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- (2) The child's general education classroom teacher(s);
- (3) A licensed special education teacher;
- (4) An occupational therapist or physical therapist;
- (5) A licensed medical provider (i.e., licensed physician, physician's assistant or licensed nurse practitioner; and
- (6) Other professional personnel as indicated (e.g., licensed school psychologist or Assistive Technology Specialist).