

ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT GUIDELINES**Federal Definition of Orthopedic Impairment:**

A severe, orthopedic impairment that adversely impacts educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly, impairments caused by disease (e.g. polio, bone tuberculosis), and impairments from other causes (e.g. cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

Eligibility:

A “child with an orthopedic impairment” means that a child has been evaluated in accordance with the Department’s policies and procedures, determined to have an orthopedic impairment, and as a result of the orthopedic impairment, needs special education (i.e. specially designed instruction) and may require related services. “Specially designed instruction” means adapting, as appropriate, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child that result from the disability, and ensure access of the child to the general curriculum so that the child can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the district that apply to all children.

Criteria:

An orthopedic impairment has been diagnosed and documented by a qualified professional; AND

The evaluation team conducts assessment procedures, and/or uses existing data to specifically describe those characteristics (i.e. physical limitations) of a child’s orthopedic or medical condition that adversely impacts educational performance; AND

The team documents the resulting need for specially designed instruction, the type of instruction required, and why it cannot be provided by general education.

Educational Impact:

The impact of the disability requires **specialized instruction** as it has an **adverse impact** on educational performance and is **not** able to be provided by general education.