

Physical Impairment Services

Guiding Document

Physically Impaired (PI) is a low incidence disability area that is defined as a medically diagnosed, chronic physical impairment - either congenital or acquired - that adversely affects physical or academic functioning. Medical conditions commonly identified as physical impairments include (but are not limited to) Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Spinal Cord Injury, Muscular Dystrophy, Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease), Arthrogryposis, and Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

What can I expect from an Itinerant P/HD (Physical/Health Disabilities) teacher?

P/HD teachers provide services in a consultative model and endorse evidence-based collaborative instruction model that provides support for:

1. Training and support for teachers and SEAs to improve a student's independence skills, self-management, and self-advocacy, including the areas of organizational strategies and work completion. This may include providing coaching to a student on leading their own IEP meetings.
2. Contributing to the student's evaluation and participating at team meetings when an IEP is developed, reviewed, or revised (*attendance by a P/HD teacher is required at all IEP and evaluation meetings for students with PI*)
3. Consultation in the provision of disability-related resources, ability awareness, curriculum, instructional methods, and environmental adaptations
4. Consultation for teachers and case managers for academic and emotional/behavioral growth and skill development, which promotes self-determination and independence.
5. Promoting district practices in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and inclusive practices and supporting Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
6. Collaborate with the student's team in writing student centered IEP goals and necessary accommodations and modifications.
7. Support teams in utilizing assistive technology to ensure access to curriculum, materials, and the educational environment.
8. Support with creating evacuation plans at each building.
9. **PI In Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE):** The P/HD teacher in ECSE works with children 0-5 years of age.
 1. Consult the P/HD teacher when considering PI as a category in Part C to Part B evaluations prior to evaluation planning.
 2. Invite P/HD teacher to evaluation planning meeting.
 3. Attendance by the ECSE P/HD teacher is the same (*attendance by a P/HD teacher is required at all IEP and evaluation meetings for students with PI*)
 4. The ECSE P/HD teacher serves in the itinerant role until a child reaches Kindergarten. At this time, the ECSE P/HD teacher will coordinate with the building P/HD teacher for transfer of service.

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) - There is no teacher licensure for the special education categorical area of TBI in the state of Minnesota, and the involvement of a TBI Specialist in a student's school programming is highly encouraged. A school TBI specialist is an educator who is both knowledgeable and experienced about TBI and the related educational

implications it may have for learners. The TBI specialist will provide consultation and support to students who qualify under the TBI category, and to their educational teams.

OHD (Other Health Disability) - There is no licensure requirement for OHD. The MN Statewide OHD leaders have provided clarification when it is most appropriate to involve a licensed P/HD teacher with an OHD team. P/HD teachers should collaborate with a team when the student's health condition simultaneously affects a student's physical well-being in addition to their overall health. Such conditions could include (but are not limited to): Epilepsy, Cystic Fibrosis, Brain Tumors, Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA), Sickle Cell Anemia, Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA; also known as a Stroke), etc.

SMI (Severe Multiple Impairments) - if PI is one of the qualifying disability areas for SMI criteria, then a licensed Physical/Health Disabilities teacher must be included on the team and participate in each IEP and Evaluation.

**Itinerant Physical/Health Disabilities Teacher
West Central Education District**

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- Connect with Glenn with questions regarding Physical Impairments (PI), Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) or Other Health Disabilities OHD

[State PI Resource Manual](#)
[State OHD Resource Manual](#)
[State TBI Resource](#)
[State TBI Resource Manual](#)