

# Physical Disability

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## Definition:

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A child/student with a physical disability shall have a sustained illness or disabling physical condition which prevents the child/student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education. A sustained illness means a prolonged, abnormal physical condition requiring continued monitoring characterized by limited strength, vitality, or alertness due to chronic or acute health problems and a disabling condition means a severe physical impairment. Conditions such as, but not limited to, traumatic brain injury, autism, attention deficit disorder and cerebral palsy may qualify as a physical disability, if they prevent a child/student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education.

## Criteria:

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Criteria for a physical disability preventing the child/student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education should be dependent upon the child's/student's diagnosis and degree of involvement in the general school setting as characterized by any of the following:

In order to accommodate the effects of the illness so as to reasonably benefit from the education program, the student's **chronic health problem or sustained illness** requires:

- Continual monitoring
- Intervention
- Specialized programming

## AND/OR

The child's/students disabling condition interferes with:

- Ambulation
- Attention
- Communication
- Coordination
- Hand movements
- Self-help skills
- other activities of daily living

...to such a degree that it requires special services, equipment, and/or transportation

- Special services
- Equipment
- Transportation

## **CDE Related Resources and Information:**

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<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/RSS-OT.asp>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/RSS-PT.asp>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Autism.asp>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/eightcomponents.htm>

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Mental\\_Health.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Mental_Health.asp)

## **Additional Resources and Information:**

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<http://www.biausa.org/>

Brain Injury Association of America provides legislative information, educational resources, and research for families and professionals.

<http://www.chadd.org/>

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder is a non-profit organization providing education, advocacy and support for individuals with AD/HD.

<http://www.ucp.org/>

United Cerebral Palsy is a national health charity that provides information, resources and advocacy for all disabled individuals.

<http://www.tsa-usa.org/>

The National Tourette Syndrome Association is a health-related association providing education and support to families with individuals diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome.

<http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/>

The Epilepsy Foundation provides information, education and current research in the area of epilepsy to individuals and caregivers of individuals diagnosed with epilepsy.

## **Additional Note to Parents:**

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A child/student may be eligible for special education services based upon a physical disability. The physical disability category includes several physical and medical conditions that impact student learning. Please reference your student's IEP for information that is specific to his/her physical/medical condition.

