

Medical Verification for Other Health Impairment (OHI), Orthopedic Impairment (OI) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	June 2020
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Medical verification is required in Arizona to establish eligibility for the following disabilities:

Other Health Impairment (OHI)

Orthopedic Impairment (OI)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

A statement from a qualified medical professional must be on file describing educationally-related medical needs. It is necessary for the school to have this information to substantiate special education eligibility and qualification for special education services. When the Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET) convenes to review existing data, if there is no record of a medical certification on file, the school psychologist is responsible for providing to the parent/guardian or adult-aged student a CUSD Medical Certification Form to be completed by the qualified medical professional prior to the determination of eligibility.

Other Health Impairments (OHI)

Refers to limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment, that – (i) Is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, and Tourette syndrome; and (ii) Adversely affects a child’s educational performance. [34 C.F.R. § 300.8(c)(9)]

A determination of Other Health Impairment requires verification of a health impairment by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed physician assistant, or in cases of ADHD a certified school psychologist or licensed psychologist.

Orthopedic Impairment (OI)

Refers to a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly,

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). [34 C.F.R § 300.8(c)(8)]

A determination of Orthopedic Impairment requires verification of the physical disability by a doctor of medicine, doctor or osteopathy, doctor of podiatric medicine, licensed nurse practitioner, or licensed physician assistant.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS)§15-761 indicates that a TBI means an acquired injury to the brain that is caused by an external physical force and that results in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects educational performance. It applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in mild, moderate or severe impairments in one or more areas, including cognition, language, memory, attention, reasoning, abstract thinking, judgment, problem solving, sensory, perceptual and motor abilities, psychosocial behavior, physical functions, information processing and speech. TBI does not include brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or brain injuries induced by birth trauma. [34 C.F.R. § 300.8(c)(12)]

A determination of Traumatic Brain Injury requires verification of the injury by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed physician assistant, or a licensed clinical neuropsychologist.