

## **Appendix (f): ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT (OI).**

### **Definition.**

Orthopedic impairment refers to a child whose severe orthopedic impairments adversely affects their educational performance to the degree that the child requires special education.

This term may include:

- (1) Impairment caused by congenital anomalies, e.g., deformity or absence of some limb.
- (2) Impairment caused by disease (poliomyelitis, osteogenesis imperfecta, muscular dystrophy, bone tuberculosis, etc.)
- (3) Impairment from other causes, e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures. [34 C.F.R. § 300.8(c)(8)]

Secondary disabilities may be present, including, but not limited to, visual impairment, hearing impairment, communication impairment and/or intellectual disability.

### **Eligibility and Placement.**

Evaluation for initial eligibility shall include the following.

- (1) A current medical evaluation from a licensed doctor of medicine. The evaluation report used for initial eligibility shall be current within one year. The evaluation shall indicate the diagnosis/prognosis of the child's orthopedic impairment, along with information as applicable regarding medications, surgeries, special health care procedures and special diet or activity restrictions.
- (2) A comprehensive educational assessment to indicate the adverse affects of the orthopedic impairment on the child's educational performance.
- (3) Assessments shall document deficits in: pre-academic or academic functioning, social/emotional development, adaptive behavior, motor development or communication abilities resulting from the orthopedic impairment. When assessment information indicates significant deficit(s) in cognitive/academic functioning, a psychological evaluation shall be given.

Children served in a program for orthopedic impairments should be functioning no lower than criteria outlined for mild intellectual disabilities programs. For those children with orthopedic impairments served in other special education programs due to the severity of their sensory or intellectual disability, support by the OI teacher regarding the implications of the child's orthopedic impairment may be appropriate.