



Other Health Impairment

What is Other Health Impairment (OHI)?

“Other health impairment” means having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment and meets the following criteria: 1) is due to chronic or acute health problems, including 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 2) adversely affects a child’s educational performance (K.A.R. 91-40-1(uu))

or chronic health conditions in the definition of other health impairment is not exhaustive, but rather provides examples of conditions that children have that may lead to eligibility for special education and related services under the category of other health impairment.

In order to qualify for special education services under OHI, the student must exhibit an exceptionality and have a need for specially designed instruction and related services.

Educational Considerations

Children from ages 3-21 may qualify for special education and related services. To be served under OHI, the student’s health condition must limit strength, vitality, or alertness to such a degree that the student’s educational progress is adversely affected. If the child has been evaluated and found to meet the eligibility criteria for OHI and needs special education and related services, an IEP is developed based on the individual needs of the child. These children can often times present unique challenges to teachers and support staff. Parents are critical members of the team and need to be involved in the educational programing.

Examples of OHI

The definition of Other Health Impairment mentioned in the Individuals with Disabilities Act specifically mentions the following disorders: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, and Tourette syndrome. There are other health impairments that can fall under the umbrella of OHI besides those specifically mentioned in the law. For example: fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), bipolar disorders, dysphagia, and other organic neurological disorders. These other disorders aren’t specified in the law because these conditions are commonly understood to be health impairments. The list of acute



Other Health Impairment

Resources

Kansas Special Education Process Handbook <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=598>

KSDE Eligibility Indicators <https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SES/misc/iep/EligibilityIndicators.pdf>

KSDE SETS <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=506>

Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) <https://ksdetasn.org/>

National Association of Special Education Teachers <https://www.naset.org/2278.0.html>

Project IDEAL <http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/health-impairments/>

For more information, contact:

Special Education and Title Services Team
(785) 296-7454
specialeducation@ksde.org



Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.