



# San Diego Unified School District

## Fact Sheet

### Program for Students with Physical and Health Disabilities (PH)

San Diego City Schools **Program for Students with Physical and Health Disabilities (PH)** provides services for students with orthopedic or other health impairments that are established by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). The goal of the PH program is to provide an instructional program, as defined in each student's IEP that reflects specially designed instruction to provide access to the district's curriculum, based on the state standards, as well as supplemental curriculum that leads to a diploma, or letter of recognition.

Student needs can be met in a variety of settings with:

- Physical modifications and equipment to support participation in the educational program;
- Modifications to the curriculum based on physical needs; and
- Specialized assistive technology requiring preparation, ongoing instruction and training.

**Referrals:** Referral to the Low Incidence Program Office (858) 490-8451 for PH services may be made by the Diagnostic Resource Teacher (DRT), parent, medical professional, school staff, or agency when:

- A medical diagnosis, verified by a physician, indicates a physical or health disability that could affect a student's educational performance;
- School nurses receive medical information about a student that necessitates an evaluation; or
- A parent or school staff, through observation, has concerns that a student manifests specific behaviors possibly related to a physical or health disability.

**Eligibility:** Educational and medical evaluations determine if a student's physical or health disability adversely affects their educational performance and therefore requires modification, equipment, and/or support services.

To be eligible for the PH Program students must have a diagnosed medical condition that impedes their ability to perform educationally or requires modifications and specialized training. Such diagnoses include (but not limited to): cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, cancer, severe asthma, and traumatic brain injury.

**Programs/Services:** The PH Program offers the following options:

- **Itinerant Program:** Students are enrolled in general education or other special education placements and receive educational support from Physical and Health-credentialed (PH-) teachers and Special Education Itinerant Nurses (SEIN).

### SUMMARY

- ❖ The PH Program Office is located in the Clairemont area at the Special Education Administration Program Support Satellite, B-3, 4435 Ute Drive, San Diego, CA 92117.
- ❖ Approximately 450 students and their families are served.
- ❖ On-site support is provided at Lindbergh/Schweitzer, Kroc Middle School, and Clairemont High School.
- ❖ Transportation is provided if a student is identified as eligible for services at one of the on-site locations or school of attendance.
- ❖ Staff includes PH teachers, trained paraeducators, and a psychologist who works to improve student independence and academics.
- ❖ Special Education Itinerant Nurses (SEIN) serve as health liaisons to school sites, provide support for teachers and staff, and train students about specialized health care procedures.

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- **Resource Room Program:** Students are enrolled in general education classes located at select elementary, middle, and high school campuses where they receive on-site support from a PH-credentialed teacher.
- **Special Day Class Program:** Students receive intense instruction about the use of assistive technology and life transition skills. Placement is determined only after a review of medical documentation, identification of the educational implications of the disability and completion of the IEP.

**Transition:** Support is provided at all levels of transition; between grades and schools and from school to career or college.