

# Citywide Physically Impaired (PI) Program

This citywide special education program serves Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) students from kindergarten to grade twelve with significant educational needs related to a physical impairment. Individuals appropriate for this specialized citywide program are those who require a higher level of special education services than can be provided in the student's community or home school.

## **Characteristics of Students:**

Physically Impaired (PI) means a medically diagnosed chronic, physical impairment, either congenital or acquired, that may adversely affect physical or academic functioning and result in the need for special education and related services. Students identified as physically impaired must have a medical diagnosis and meet the Minnesota State special education criteria. Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy and Spinal Cord Injuries are examples of physical impairments. The educational needs of these students depend on the manifestation of the medical diagnosis. The special education student demonstrates below average academic skills because of the inability to complete the motoric portions of academic tasks, not because of cognitive impairment. Students with more significant physical impairments needing greater educational support benefit most from placement at a PI "cluster site".

## **Program Description:**

For a few students, the extent of their needs may indicate a placement at a "cluster site", the purpose being access to a full-time teacher with a PI license. Students may have needs for specialized equipment, assistive technology, physical or occupational therapy or nursing services for personal care or medical reasons. The program site offers an architecturally barrier free school in which children can strive towards physical independence. The program staff understands assistive technology and adaptive equipment that allow children with physical impairments to be more efficient and productive with motor tasks.