

Date:

To: (Physician/Clinic Name)

RE: (Student Name)

This letter is being sent to you as a result of an anticipated or current school evaluation for a child or youth under your medical care. All school districts in Minnesota special education programs designed to meet the needs of students who qualify for services. A written statement from a physician documenting a medical diagnosis is required as the first step in determining eligibility in the state of Minnesota for the special education categories of Physically Impaired (PI), Other Health Disabilities (OHD), and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

We appreciate your medical expertise in determining a medical diagnosis. As part of an ongoing effort to clarify the process in qualifying a student for special education services in the public schools, please help us assist families in understanding that the presence of a medical diagnosis **does not** automatically qualify a student for such services. Minnesota Rule, in conformance with Federal laws, requires that an educational evaluation be conducted by appropriately licensed special education school staff in order for a child to qualify for special education services in the school setting. A letter coming from the medical community stating that a child qualifies for special education, adapted physical education, or the related services or occupational or physical therapy can be misleading and / or confusing to parents. When you sense that a child's educational performance may be impacted by a medical condition, please suggest to the parents that they explore the need for an educational evaluation with their child's school. If, after the evaluation, the child meets state criteria, the parents and other members of the school team will write an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Ongoing communication from the medical community helps the school anticipate accommodations, which can provide optimal access to educational opportunities. Some ways to develop this communication link could include: Encouraging parents to provide the school with relevant medical information; inviting school staff to discharge conferences following extended hospitalization; and / or informing parents of their right to request an educational evaluation by the school.

Thank you for providing the necessary medical documentation for the above-referenced student. Additionally, we hope that the general information shared in this letter will assist in building stronger collaboration between the medical and school communities, as well as with the families we all serve. Please don't hesitate to contact the school representatives below if you have any questions. Thank you.

(School case manager name, title & contact information)