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## VERIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES

### Assistive Devices

In cases where students are required to temporarily use assistive devices at school such as casts, splints, canes, walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, etc., students must first present a letter from the prescribing doctor to the School Nurse or designee that states the necessity for the student's use of the device, any restrictions and the length of time that the restrictions and devices will be necessary. Without proper verification, the student will be sent home for safety reasons and it will be an unexcused absence at that time.

However, if the high school student is being followed by the school Athletic Trainer, contact the trainer for verification and allow the student to remain at school once verified under care of the Athletic Trainer.

Parent/Guardian will provide the following:

- A completed [PE-Activity Recommendation Form](#) or equivalent identifying the limitations and duration of use, before the student will be allowed to use either crutches, a wheelchair or another assistive device. The statement will also indicate that the student received instructions on how to safely use the device(s). Only students who have submitted such a document or an equivalent shall be permitted in class with these devices.
- The PE-Activity Recommendation Form or equivalent will include the anticipated length of time excused from P.E., recess or other physical activities.
- The physician-approved equipment appropriate in size for the student. Student needs to be able to independently navigate the school campus with his/her wheelchair or other assistive device.
- Notification to the school health office when the student's condition changes.

When the school health office staff has received notification that a student must use either crutches, a wheelchair or other assistive device, the following steps will be taken:

- The nurse will be notified when a student requires an assistive device due to an injury or illness.
- School staff will make every effort to maintain student safety while assistive devices are in use. Refer to "Crutches or other Mobility Assistance Devices" Procedural Protocol (attached).