



School Procedures for Immobilizers and Mobility Devices

The Classical Academy (TCA) Health Services Department would like to partner with the students, parents, and physicians to minimize the risk's associated with the use of crutches/wheelchairs/scooters. Children and adolescents with an injury or disability may use mobility aids such as crutches to assist in their mobility. However, use of these aids has been associated with risk for injury. There are more than 3,500 pediatric injuries each year related to crutches.

PURPOSE:

- To ensure the safety and adequate accommodations of all students requiring a cast, crutches, scooter, splint, wheelchairs, or other immobilizer/mobility device at school
- To ensure that students requiring a cast, crutches, boot, splint, scooter, wheelchairs, or other immobilizer/mobility devices have been evaluated by a health care provider and that the mobility devices have not been borrowed or loaned
- To ensure that students have been trained by a medical professional in the proper use of mobility devices.

All students who return to school with an immobilizer including a cast, brace, splint or boot and /or a mobility device including crutches, scooter, wheelchair must have a doctor's note which includes the following:

- Date of visit, diagnosis, doctor/provider's signature and stamp
- Any restrictions (P.E., sports, recess, weight-bearing, stairs, etc.)
- Date(s) of restrictions.
- For crutches, doctor/provider must indicate that crutches are to be used at school and that the student has been instructed in proper use of crutches.

TCA does not recommend that a student with crutches be allowed to ambulate stairs. However, if a student's physician allows this, it must be stated so in writing from the physician. Crutches and wheelchairs will not be issued or loaned from the health office.

REQUIREMENTS:

A doctor's note must be received before the school can accept responsibility for the student. For students who require a wheelchair at school, notify the building nurse. Never take crutches away from a student unless the crutches are being used for a purpose other than intended.

When a student returns to school with mobility devices **without the required documentation:**

- Attempt to obtain a doctor's note by calling the parent and requesting a note to be faxed while the student remains in the health room.
- If a doctor's note cannot be obtained within a reasonable period of time, notify the building principal.
- Unless otherwise directed by the principal, the student must be picked up by the parent and a doctor's note obtained before the student may return to school.