

## CHAPTER 7

# Regional Services for Students with Severe Orthopedic Impairment in Oregon

The Oregon Legislature funds eight Regional Programs that provide services to students with low-incidence and high-needs disabilities. Under the OARs, the Regional Program eligibilities include Hearing Impairment, Vision Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Deaf-Blindness, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Severe Orthopedic Impairment. A link to the OAR for regional eligibility is included in Appendix B.

The purpose of Regional Programs is to provide specialized expertise to assist the school district to provide for the educational needs of their students with low-incidence conditions. In Oregon, the term, Regional Program, “means direct or consultative services funded through the Department, provided on a single or multi-county basis that assist school districts and early intervention/early childhood special education providers in meeting the unique needs of eligible children.” (OAR 581-015-2540(7)) For Regional Programs, “eligible children” means “children with low-incidence, high-need disabilities who need the services of the regional program.” (OAR 581-015-2540 (5))

In the state of Oregon, a child age 3 to 21 with an orthopedic impairment is eligible for Regional services if determined to be severely orthopedically impaired by the eligibility team, based on a qualifying score on a tool(s) approved by the state Department of Education.

Students with mild and moderate orthopedic impairments or other children who qualify for special education may receive OT or PT services provided by the local education agency if the IEP/IFSP team decides those services are needed.

In Oregon, children from 0-3 years of age who are found eligible for early intervention may receive services from the Regional Program if they meet the criteria of *severely* orthopedically impaired established by ODE. EI-eligible children 0-3 can receive OT/PT services from EI/ECSE programs even if they are **not** eligible for Regional Program services. (OAR 581-015-2550)

## Procedure for Providing Regional Services for Students with Severe Orthopedic Impairments in Oregon

For the district or EI/ECSE program to make a referral for regional services for a student or young child with severe orthopedic impairment, the child must first be identified as eligible for special education as a child with an orthopedic impairment by the district or early intervention/early childhood special education eligibility team. Orthopedic impairment is defined in the Oregon Administrative Rules as “a motor disability that adversely affects the child’s educational performance. The term includes impairments

caused by an anomaly, disease or other conditions (e.g., cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy or traumatic injury).”

OAR 581-015-2000 (4)(g)

To be eligible as a child with an orthopedic impairment, the child must meet all of the following minimum criteria:

- (a) *“The child has a motor impairment that results in deficits in the quality, speed or accuracy of movement. These deficits must be documented by a score of two or more standard deviations below the mean in fine motor skills, gross motor skills, or self-help skills, or functional deficits in at least two of these three motor areas; and*
- (b) *The child’s condition is permanent or is expected to last for more than 60 calendar days.”*

OAR 581-015-2160 (2)(a)(b)

The eligibility team must also determine that:

- (a) *“The child’s disability has an adverse impact on the child’s educational performance; and,*
- (b) *The child needs special education services as a result of the disability.”*

OAR 581-015-2160 (3)(a)(b)

To receive services from a Regional Program for students with Severe Orthopedic Impairment (SOI), a student must be eligible for special education under Orthopedic Impairment, and meet the criteria for severe involvement, as specified in the Oregon Administrative Rules.

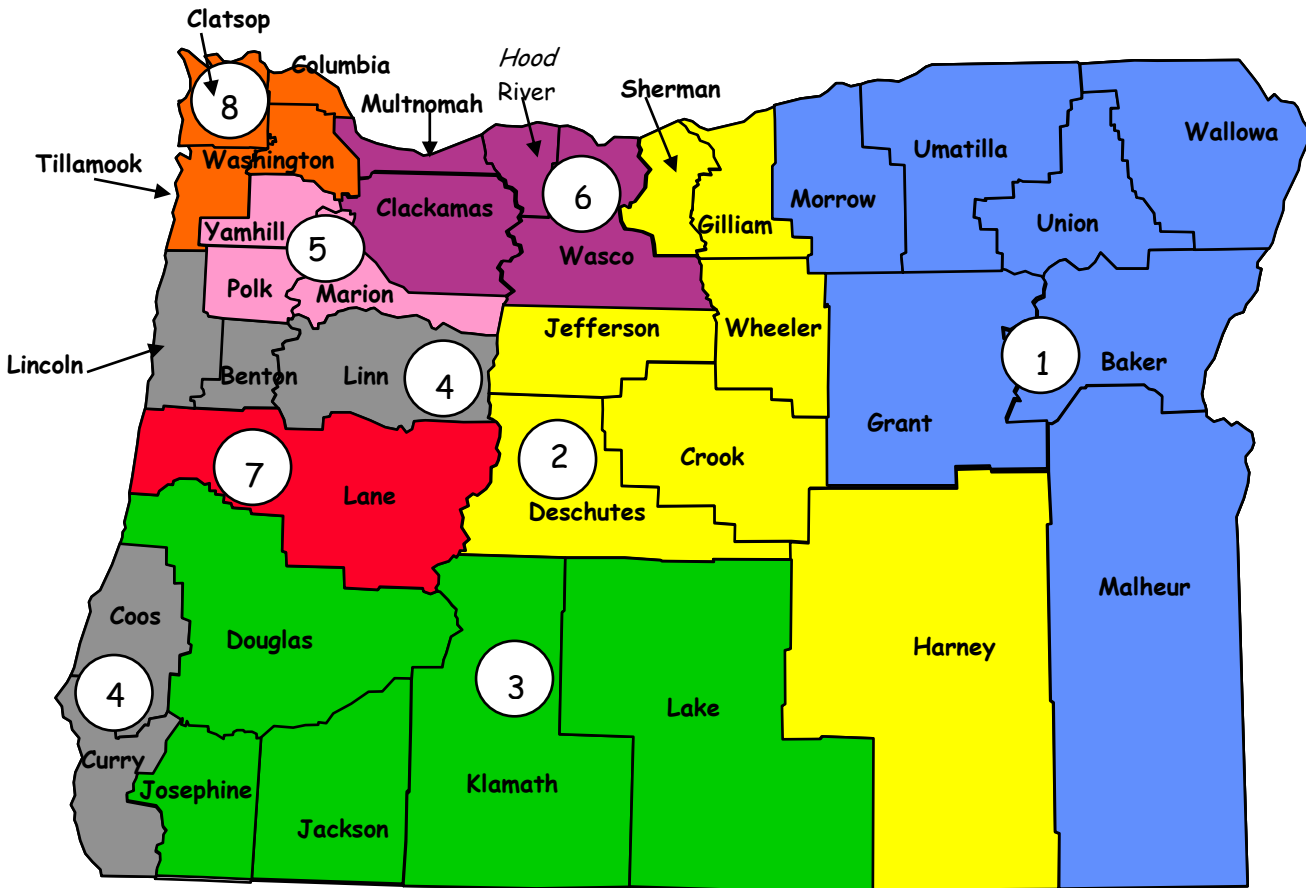
In referring a child to the regional program, the district or early intervention/early childhood special education program must provide the regional coordinator with the following information:

- (1) *A request for regional services;*
- (2) *A statement of a child's eligibility in one of the following categories, if previously determined: autism spectrum disorder; deafblindness, hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury, vision impairment, or;*
- (3) *A statement from the child's eligibility team for a child who has a severe orthopedic impairment including eligibility tool(s) approved by the Department, if previously determined; and*
- (4) *Additional information as the regional coordinator or other regional program representative may request.*

OAR 581-015-2555

When a child is referred and meets the criteria for regional eligibility, the child may receive services from the Regional Program. However, the local education agency retains the primary responsibility for the educational and related services provided to the child (FAPE). If the child is found not to qualify for services from the Regional Program, but needs services under IDEA 2004, or would qualify for therapy services under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504, school districts are still responsible to provide these services and may choose to provide them in a variety of ways. (See Appendix B.)

## Oregon Regional Programs Serving Students with Low Incidence Disabilities



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