

Physical & Health Impairments (PHI)



Overview of the PHI
Education Specialist
Credential Program

Sherwood J. Best, CSULA

Federal Disability Categories Served via the PHI Credential

- ❖ **Orthopedic Impairments (OI)**
- ❖ **Other Health Impairments (OHI)**
- ❖ **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**
- ❖ **Multiple Disabilities (MD or MH)**

Orthopedic Impairments (OI)

A severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects educational performance. The category includes impairments such as amputation of a limb, cerebral palsy, poliomyelitis, and bone tuberculosis.

Other Health Impairments (OHI)

Health impairments include convulsive disorders, cystic fibrosis, heart disease, sickle cell disease, hemophilia, leukemia, asthma, cancer, AIDS, or any other chronic or acute health problem that limits strength, vitality, or alertness and adversely affects the student's educational development and performance.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

An acquired injury to the brain caused by external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. This category applies to open and closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more of the following areas:

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Continued

- Cognition
- Language
- Memory
- Attention
- Reasoning
- Abstract thinking
- Judgment
- Speech
- Sensory impairments
- Perceptual & motor abilities
- Psychosocial behavior
- Physical functioning
- Information processing

Multiple Disabilities (MD or MH)

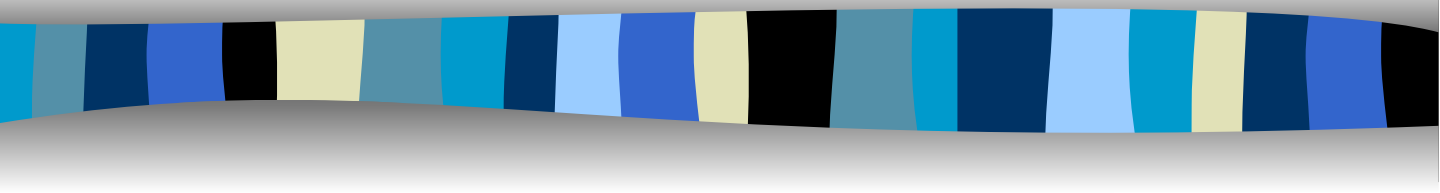
A combination of impairments (such as mental retardation-blindness or mental retardation-physical disabilities) that causes such severe problems that the child cannot be accommodated in a special education program for one of the impairments alone. The term does not include deaf-blindness.

Legislative Requirements

Education Code 44265.5

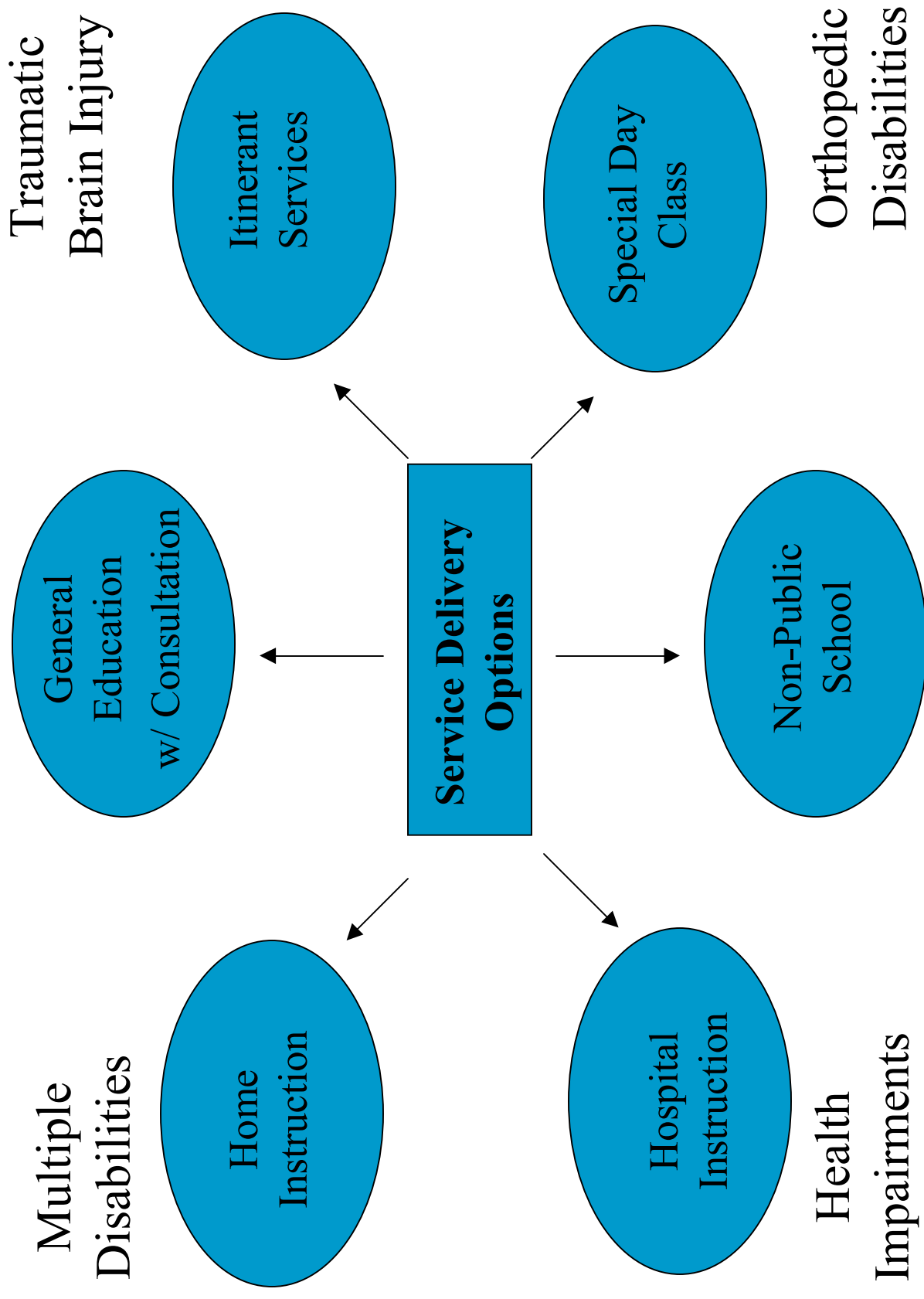
Pupils who are orthopedically handicapped shall be taught by teachers whose professional preparation and credential authorization are specific to that handicapping condition.

This means that if the student is labeled OI and receives special education services, a teacher with the PHI credential must be involved in that child's educational program



Students with OI, OHI, TBI, & MD are served in many different educational settings. Students served by teachers w/ the PHI credential are probably the most diversely placed & are the most diverse clinically of all groups.

Program Diversity





Several University Programs in
California Prepare Teachers to
Educate Infants, Children, &
Youth w/ Physical & Health
Impairments



❖ California State University, Los Angeles

❖ Dr. Sherwood (Sherry) Best

❖ San Francisco State University

❖ Dr. Gloria Soto

❖ Fresno Pacific University

❖ Dr. Joseph Taylor

PHI Credential Goals

- ❖ Commitment to provide candidates w/ strong professional preparation in core subject areas & specialized curriculum areas (Level I & Level II preparation)
- ❖ Candidates become educational leaders in the field of Physical & Health Impairments.
- ❖ Candidates serve infants, children, & young adults w/ a variety of learning needs in many settings

Key Program Features

- ❖ **Program Diversity**
 - Serves birth-22 years population
 - Includes multiple disability categories
 - Includes multiple service delivery options
 - Provides field experiences in a variety of settings
- ❖ **Focus on Core Curriculum and Expanded Core Curriculum:**
 - AT & AAC
 - Social Interaction Skills
 - Career Education & Independent Living
 - Recreation & Leisure
- ❖ **Credential options for Interns & Full-Time Students**

Lifelong Learning & Professional Development

- ❖ Specialization courses across Level I and Level II
- ❖ Masters programs aligned with PHI Education Specialist Credential
- ❖ Membership & participation in professional organizations, conferences, & other ongoing activities
- ❖ Community Advisory Committees provides program input

Preparing Highly Qualified Teachers

- ❖ University faculty members work collaboratively with other professional organizations (e.g. DPHD, CAPHI, AECMN) to provide continuing education workshops, presentations, & opportunities for enhanced knowledge base, educational leadership, & advocacy in the profession of PHI

Summary

- ❖ PHI credential is not a “boutique”, “outmoded”, “nonexistent”, “restricted”, or “soon to be eliminated” credential!
- ❖ Teachers w/ the PHI credential:
 - ❖ Provide educational services across wide age & disability ranges
 - ❖ Are knowledgeable in core & expanded curricular areas
 - ❖ Are educational leaders & advocates
 - ❖ Cannot be replaced by OT, APE, SLP, etc. (PHI is NOT a related service)



For More Information About the PHI
Education Specialist Credential
Program, Contact:

Sherwood J. Best
CSULA
sbest@calstatela.edu