



TABLE 14.3 Impact on School Performance: Functional Effects

Functional Effects of the Disability	Examples of How School Performance Can Be Affected
1. Atypical Movements and Motor Abilities	Inaccurate, difficult, slow, or restricted arm movements can negatively affect access to school materials (for example, inability to use a keyboard). Even with proper adaptations, school performance may be affected (for example, can only type 12 words a minute with an adapted keyboard).
2. Sensory Loss	Many physical disabilities have an increased incidence of sensory impairments (for example, vision loss), which can impact student performance.
3. Communication Impairments	Even with an augmentative communication device, asking questions and answering questions may be limited due to what is programmed into the device or due to the student still learning to use the device accurately.
4. Fatigue and Lack of Endurance	For some students, fatigue can be so severe that they need rest breaks throughout the day or a shortened school day, which can impact the amount of school material learned.
5. Health Factors	Students experiencing pain or discomfort from their conditions (for example, juvenile idiopathic arthritis) or from their devices (for example, poorly fitted wheelchair) will not be able to attend well to the lessons being taught. Frequent illness or surgeries may also result in extended absences.
6. Experiential Deficits	Some students with physical disabilities will lack common experiences due to physical or motor issues that their peers usually have acquired. These missed experiences or concepts can be important for school success.
7. Cognitive Impairments and Processing Issues	Although students with physical disabilities can be gifted or have IQs in the normal range of intelligence, there is an increase of cognitive impairments and processing issues (for example, memory, organization, perception, motor planning) with certain physical disabilities that will affect school performance.