

A GUIDE TO SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS

Every child has the right to an education

As caretaker, you have an important role in your child's education. Working with the school can be confusing, particularly if your child has medical needs.

Children with medical needs must have the same opportunities and experiences in school as children who do not experience these challenges.

If your child needs extra help or support because of medical needs, the school must provide it.

The Law

The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are the laws that require schools to give special help to children with medical needs.

To learn more visit <https://www.ada.gov/>

Getting Help

Contact the school either before the school year starts or early in the school year.

Ask for a meeting at school to talk about your child's medical issues and educational needs.

The meeting should include you and the school staff who will be working with your child – administrators, teachers, nurse, etc.

Your doctor may be willing to provide useful information about your child's medical condition.

Keep a log of everything in writing. Your log should include the meeting date, where it took place, the names and positions of the people who were there and what they promised to do. Write down contact information for everyone who came to the meeting. Include the date of the next meeting.

What will Happen

You will talk about the child's disability and his/her schooling.

The meeting results in a "504 Plan". This plan lists the help or "accommodations" that your child will get at school. Every child is different, so every 504 Plan is different.

Everyone at school must follow the 504 Plan.

This includes the classroom teacher, substitutes, cafeteria staff, gym teacher, recess staff, etc.

Understand What is Happening

Understand how the school is helping your child. Ask questions if the plan sounds confusing.

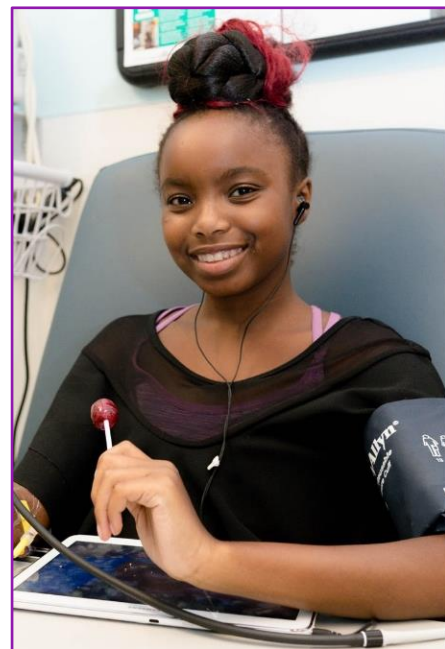
Ensuring Participation

Children with chronic pain have the right to participate in all school activities. This includes trips, field days, etc. If necessary, the school must make special plans so that your child can participate.

Continue to be Involved

Talk to your child. Ask your child about learning. Talk about successes and challenges.

Talk to the school and the teachers. Make sure your child is getting help. Schedule a meeting if there are problems or if your child needs more help.



For definitions of school accommodation language



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Examples of Modifications or “Accommodations”



- Unlimited Access to School Nurse
- Access to Extra Fluids
- Unlimited Access to Bathroom
- Extra Set of Books at Home
- Special Transportation
- Modified Recess
- Emergency Plan for Fire Drill or other School Emergencies
- Approved Absences from School Based on Disability
- Support for Missed Academic Work Due to Disability
- Tutoring
- Extra Time for Tests
- Access to Assisted Technology (Computers, etc.)
- Modified School Day
- Modified Course Work
- Modified Physical Activity
- Extended Year Programming

Make it Clear

Think about the details of who, what, where, and when for each accommodation. Make sure all these details are agreed to in writing.

Addressing Problems with School Staff

Not all schools understand the educational impact of medical needs. Similarly, not all schools understand that children with medical needs cannot be left out of school activities.

If you have concerns, call the Center for Children’s Advocacy. Contact information is below.

Center for Children’s Advocacy Medical-Legal Partnership Project cca-ct.org/mlpp

Attorney Bonnie Roswig 860-545-8581
860-566-0836
broswig@cca-ct.org

Other Connecticut Education Resources

State Department of Education 860-713-5000

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