

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS



Students who have serious, acute, chronic or life threatening medical conditions often have special health care needs at school and school events. They may need an Individual Health Plan (IHP). An IHP is a formal written plan developed by the school staff together with the student's family, school nurse, health care professionals and the student.

### WHAT IS AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH PLAN (IHP)?

- ✦ Formal plan that defines student's needs due to the health condition.
- ✦ Plan to resolve needs with goals, outcomes, priorities and timelines.

### WHY AN IHP?

- ✦ Ensures the school has information & authorization
- ✦ Specifies changes to the individual's education needs
- ✦ Addresses family & school concerns
- ✦ Clarifies roles & responsibilities
- ✦ Establishes ongoing teamwork, communication & evaluation
- ✦ Addresses transportation needs

### STUDENTS WHO MIGHT NEED AN IHP MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

- ✦ Asthma
- ✦ Seizure Disorder
- ✦ ADHD
- ✦ Chronic or acute medical conditions (cystic fibrosis, diabetes, cancer)
- ✦ Physical disabilities
- ✦ Medication and medical needs
- ✦ Serious allergies

### IF YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH ISSUES IMPACT HIM OR HER IN WAYS LISTED BELOW, YOU WILL WANT TO MEET WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO ENSURE MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ARE BEING MET:

- ✦ Medication administration and management
- ✦ Support from staff on health care needs
- ✦ Emergency planning
- ✦ School attendance
- ✦ Fatigue & endurance issues
- ✦ Need for hygiene assistance
- ✦ Disease symptoms & medication side effects that may affect learning
- ✦ Pain or pain medication that impairs concentration and stamina
- ✦ Disease/condition that places student at increased risk of infection
- ✦ Management and administration of health care intervention (e.g., tube feedings, trach suctioning, chest percussions, etc.)

### WHAT SHOULD AN IHP INCLUDE?

- ✦ Child's diagnosis and health care needs
- ✦ Required accommodations
- ✦ Goals, interventions, outcomes & timelines regarding appropriate self care
- ✦ Make-up instruction for those with temporary or chronic illnesses or injuries
- ✦ How instructional time is impacted by health care needs
  - o Medication dosage schedule or necessary medical interventions
  - o Emergency plan
  - o Special services required, including field trips

# ASK



About • Special • Kids  
Answers for families of kids with special needs

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## HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE IHP?

- Get medical orders from child's doctor/providers
- School nurse creates plan after review of medical orders from doctor/providers
- Can be part of a Section 504, IEP or stand alone plan
- Each plan is unique to student's needs

## SECTION 504

Section 504 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Section 504 ensures that the child with a disability has equal access to an education, which may require accommodations and modifications and improved building accessibility.

## STUDENTS WITH ADHD, CYSTIC FIBROSIS, JUVENILE ARTHRITIS, SICKLE CELL, CANCER OR OTHER DISABILITIES AND/OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS MAY BE PROTECTED BY THIS LAW. ACCOMMODATIONS/MODIFICATIONS MAY INCLUDE:

- Extended time for homework and tests
- Additional breaks
- Adaptive physical education
- School attendance modifications
- Tutoring
- Preferential seating

The threshold for Section 504 eligibility is lower than for special education eligibility. The services are less intensive and schools do not receive any funding under Section 504. There is no state office responsible for monitoring or enforcement. The Chicago Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Education, monitors Section 504 in this region. (Phone 312-730-1560)

## FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Center for Exceptional Learners  
Indiana Department of Education

Phone: 317-232-0570  
Toll Free: 877-851-4106  
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## IN\*SOURCE

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