

ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DIABETES

The school district nurse is appointed to:

- Consult and coordinate with the parents and health care providers of students with diabetes; and
- Train and supervise the appropriate staff in the care of students with diabetes.

Federal law gives students the right to receive the diabetes care they need to be safe and participate in school activities just like any other child.

Schools should provide the following:

- Trained staff to monitor blood sugar (blood glucose) levels and administer insulin and glucagon
- Trained staff to provide diabetes care during field trips, extracurricular events, and all school-sponsored activities
- Capable students permitted to self-manage their diabetes anytime, anywhere

Schools should not:

- Make family members go to school to care for a student's diabetes
- Transfer students to a different school to get needed diabetes care
- Prevent students with diabetes from participating in field trips, sports, and other school-sponsored activities

The district will develop and follow an individual health plan for each student with diabetes. Each individual health care plan will include an individual emergency plan element. The health plans will be updated annually, and more frequently as needed.

Parents of students with diabetes may designate an adult to provide care for their student consistent with the student's individual health care plan. At parent request, school district employees may volunteer to be a parent-designated adult under this policy, but they shall not be required to participate.

Parent-designated adults who are school employees will file a voluntary, written, current and unexpired letter of intent stating their willingness to be a parent-designated adult. Parent-designated adults who are school employees are required to receive training in caring for students with diabetes from the school district nurse or from a nationally certified diabetes educator.

Parent-designated adults who are not school employees are required to show evidence of comparable training, and meet school district requirements for volunteers. Parent-designated adults will receive additional training from

a parent-selected health care professional or expert in diabetic care to provide the care requested by the parent. The school district nurse is not responsible for the supervision of procedures authorized by the parents and carried out by the parent-designated adult.

In addition to adhering to the requirements of each individual health care plan, for the general care of students with diabetes, the district will:

- Acquire necessary parent requests and instructions for treatment.
- Acquire monitoring and treatment orders from licensed health care providers prescribing within the scope of their licensed authority.
- Provide sufficient and secure storage for medical equipment and medication provided by the parent.
- Permit students with diabetes to perform blood glucose tests, administer insulin, treat hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, with easy access to the necessary supplies, equipment and medication necessary under their individual health care plan. This includes the option for students to carry the necessary supplies, equipment and medication on their person and perform monitoring and treatment functions wherever they are on school grounds or at school sponsored events.
- Permit students with diabetes unrestricted access to necessary food and water on schedule and as needed, and unrestricted access to bathroom facilities. When food is served at school events, provision shall be made for appropriate food to be available to students with diabetes.
- School meals will not be withheld from any student for disciplinary reasons. Students with diabetes will not miss meals because they are not able to pay for them. The charge for the meal will be billed to the parent or adult student and collected consistent with district policies.
- Parents and health care providers of students with diabetes will be provided with a description of their student's school schedule to facilitate the timing of monitoring, treatment and food consumption.
- Each student's individual health care plan shall be distributed to appropriate staff based on the student's needs and the staff member's contact with the student.

The district, its employees, agents or parent-designated adults who act in good faith and in substantial compliance with a student's individual health care plan and the instructions of the student's health care provider shall not be criminally or civilly liable for services provided under RCW 28A.210.330.

Classification: Essential

Cross References:

Board Policy 2162 Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

3416 Medication at School
3520 Student Fees, Fines and Charges
5630 Volunteers

Legal References:

42 U.S.C. §§ 12101et seq. Americans with Disabilities Act

RCW 28A.210.330 Students with diabetes -- Individual health plans --
Designation of professional to
consult and coordinate with
parents and health care
provider -- Training and
supervision of school district
personnel

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