

Appendix E

Examples of Disabilities And Accommodations

The Section 504 accommodations/services a student receives will be based upon the unique needs identified during the evaluation process. The pages that follow are intended to offer sample accommodations for typical disabilities that may qualify a student to receive a Section 504 Accommodation Plan. Some of the suggested accommodations could be listed in the plan as the parent's or students' responsibility.

Remember, these disabilities are covered by Section 504 only if an evaluation determines that the condition is substantially limiting to a major life activity. Each student is different, so the accommodation will be different and decided by the Section 504 Team, including the parent.

As of January 1, 2009, school districts, in determining whether a student has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits that student in a major life activity, must *not* consider the ameliorating effects of any mitigating measures that student is using. This is a change from prior law. Before January 1, 2009, school districts had to consider a student's use of mitigating measures in determining whether that student had a physical or mental impairment that substantially limited that student in a major life activity. In the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), however, Congress specified that the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures must not be considered in determining if a person is an individual with a disability.

Congress did not define the term "mitigating measures" but rather provided a non-exhaustive list of "mitigating measures." The mitigating measures are as follows: medication; medical supplies, equipment, or appliances; low-vision devices (which do not include ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses); prosthetics (including limbs and devices); hearing aids and cochlear implants or other implantable hearing devices; mobility devices; oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; use of assistive technology; reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services; and learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.

Congress created one exception to the mitigating measures analysis. The ameliorative effects of the mitigating measures of ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses shall be considered in determining if an impairment substantially limits a major life activity. "Ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses" are lenses that are intended to fully correct visual acuity or eliminate refractive error, whereas "low-vision devices" (listed above) are devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image.

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

EXAMPLE: The student frequently misses school and does not have the strength to attend a full day. This student has a disability that substantially limits the life activities of caring for one's self and learning.

Possible Accommodations

- Develop a health care and emergency plan—school nurse.
- Apply universal precautions.
- Administer medications as prescribed—school nurse.
- Adjust attendance policies.
- Adjust schedule or shorten day.
- Provide rest periods.
- Adapt physical education curriculum.
- Establish routine communication with health professionals, school nurse, and home.
- Meet with doctor, parents, teachers, and administrators.
- Provide two-way audio/video link between home and classroom.
- Modify assignments and tests.
- Provide an extra set of textbooks for home.
- Provide staff training on confidentiality.
- Provide education and support for peers regarding issues of death and dying.
- Provide transportation to and from school.
- Tape books or provide a personal reader.
- Arrange for a support group.
- Develop supportive community attitudes regarding the school's need to

educate student who are HIV positive/AIDS.

- Promote the most supportive, least restrictive educational program for student with AIDS.
- Provide a peer support group to encourage communication.
- Furnish home and hospital care for extended periods of illness.
- Provide technology at home with a possible link to the school.

ALLERGIES

EXAMPLE: The student has severe allergic reactions to certain pollens and foods. The student is substantially limited in the major life activity of breathing.

Possible Accommodations

- Avoid allergy-causing substances: soap, weeds, pollen, food.
- Inservice necessary persons: dietary people, peers, coaches, laundry for sports people (soap).
- Allow time for shots/clinic appointments.
- Use air purifiers.
- Adapt physical education curriculum during high pollen time.
- Improve room ventilation (e.g. When remodeling has occurred and materials may cause an allergy).

ARTHRITIS

EXAMPLE: A student with arthritis may have persistent pain, tenderness, or swelling in one or more joints. The student is substantially limited in the major life activity of walking and performing manual tasks.

Possible Accommodations

- Develop health care plan and emergency plan—school nurse.

- Provide a rest period during the day.
- Accommodate for absences for doctor's appointments.
- Provide assistive devices for writing (e.g., pencil grips, non-skid surface, typewriter/computer, etc.).
- Modify physical education curriculum.
- Administer medication as prescribed—school nurse.
- Arrange for assistance with carrying books, lunch tray, etc.
- Provide book caddy.
- Implement movement plan to avoid stiffness.
- Provide seating accommodations.
- Allow extra time between classes.
- Provide locker assistance.
- Provide modified eating utensils.
- Accommodate for writing with a computer and note-taking with a tape recorder.
- Make available access to wheelchair/ramps and school van for transportation.
- Modify recess time.
- Provide peer support groups.
- Arrange for instructional aide support.
- Arrange for someone else to take notes.
- Install handle style doorknobs (openers).
- Record lectures/presentations.
- Have teacher provide outlines of presentation.
- Use Velcro® fasteners for bags, shoes, and coats.

- Provide a more comfortable style of desk.
- Adjust attendance policy, if needed.
- Furnish a warmer room and sit student close to the heat.
- Modify curriculum for the lab classes.
- Supply an extra set of books for home use and keep a set at school.
- Let student give reports in oral form rather than written.
- Begin an awareness program for other student.
- Provide individual school counseling.
- Make any needed bathroom accommodations.

| |
|--|
| ASTHMA |
| <i>EXAMPLE: A student has been diagnosed as having asthma. The disability limits the major life activity of breathing.</i> |

Possible Accommodations

- Develop health care and emergency plan—school nurse.
- Modify activity level for recess, physical education, etc.
- Use air purifier or inhalants.
- Provide inhalant therapy assistance.
- Administer medication as prescribed—school nurse.
- Remove allergens—e.g., hairspray, lotions, perfumes, pine trees, carpet.
- Make field trips non-mandatory and supplement with videos, audios, movies, etc.
- Accommodate medical absence; arrange transportation to home/clinic.
- Provide education to peers/teachers/others (bus drivers, cooks, etc.).

- Provide access to water, gum, etc.
- Provide curriculum considerations (science class, physical education, etc.)
- Provide alternatives if individual misses an excessive amount of school.
- Have peers available to carry materials to and from classes
(e.g., lunch tray, books).
- Provide rest periods.
- Modify field trip experiences.
- Provide indoor space for before and after school.
- Arrange for access to wheelchair for transition purposes.
- Have a locker location that is centralized and free of atmosphere changes.
- Modify attendance policies.

| |
|--|
| <p>ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER (ADD) ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)</p> |
|--|

| |
|--|
| <p><i>EXAMPLE: The student does not meet eligibility requirements under IDEA as emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, or other health impaired. The student is diagnosed as having ADD by a doctor, and the disability limits the major life activity of learning.</i></p> |
|--|

Possible Accommodations

- Have student work in a study carrel.
- Adjust student seating.
- Use simple, concise instructions.
- Provide a peer tutor/helper.
- Teach compensatory strategies.
- Administer medication as prescribed—school nurse.

- Monitor stress and fatigue; adjust activities.
- Modify assignments, as necessary.
- Change instructional pace.
- Provide supervision during transitions, disruptions, and field trips.
- Use study guides, organizing tools.
- Modify testing procedures.
- Provide school counseling.
- Initiate frequent parent communication.
- Establish a school/home behavior management program.
- Provide training for staff and parents.
- Have the student use an organizer—train in organizational skills.
- Establish a visual cue between teacher and student.
- Assign chores/duties around room/school.
- Modify environment to avoid distractions.
- Highlight required or important information/directions.
- Place assignments, directions on tape for auditory learner.
- Provide a checklist for student, parents, and/or teacher to record assignments or completed tasks.
- Use a timer to assist student to focus on given task or number of problems in time allotted—*stress* they need to be done correctly.
- Have student restate or write directions/instructions.
- Allow student to respond in variety of different modes (e.g., may place answers for tests on tape instead of paper.)
- Give student opportunity to stand while working.
- Provide additional supervision to and from school.

- Modify student's work area with barriers.
- Inservice other student and staff about ADD/ADHD.
- Supply treats and rewards to promote behavior change.
- Prescribe physical activity, exercise, etc.
- Determine trigger points and prevent action leading to trigger points.

| |
|---|
| CANCER |
| <i>EXAMPLE: The student has been diagnosed with cancer. The condition has become substantially limiting to the major life activities of learning and caring for one's self.</i> |

Possible Accommodations

- With the school nurse, develop a health and emergency plan.
- Apply universal precautions.
- Adjust attendance policies.
- Limit number of classes taken; accommodate scheduling (breaks, etc.).
- Send teacher/tutor to hospital, as appropriate.
- Take whatever steps are necessary to accommodate student's involvement in extracurricular activities.
- Adjust activity level and expectations in classes based on physical limitations; do not require activities that are too physically taxing.
- Schedule daily monitoring or distribution of medications, as prescribed.
- Have accommodations available for transportation to and from school and extracurricular activities.
- Provide dietary accommodations.
- Shorten day and/or arrange for home tutoring following treatment.
- Provide additional set of texts and assignments to hospital school.

- Tape lessons.
- Modify schedule to include rest breaks.
- Provide counseling; establish peer support group.
- Adapt physical education.
- Provide access as needed to school health services.
- Provide awareness training to staff and other student about cancer.
- Furnish a peer tutor.
- Modify workload.
- Provide a separate bathroom.
- Provide an interactive computer/modem.
- Instigate a free pass system from the classroom.
- Adjust the proficiency requirement.
- Provide individual school counseling.
- If necessary, adjust requirements for graduation.
- Provide teachers with counseling, emphasizing positive attitudes.

| |
|--|
| CEREBRAL PALSY |
| <p><i>EXAMPLE: The student has serious difficulties with fine and gross motor skills. A wheelchair is used for mobility. Cognitive skills are very good. The impairment substantially limits the major life activity of walking and caring for one's self.</i></p> |

Possible Accommodations

- Initiate a health care plan—school nurse.
- Provide assistive technology devices (computer).
- Arrange for use of ramps and elevators.

- Allow for extra time between classes.
- Assist with carrying books, lunch trays, etc.
- Modify physical education curriculum.
- Provide time for physical therapy.
- Monitor medication administration, as prescribed—school nurse.
- Modify eating utensils.
- Educate peers/staff about cerebral palsy.

| EPILEPSY |
|---|
| <p><i>EXAMPLE: The student is on medication for seizure activity but experiences several grand mal seizures each month. The condition substantially limits the major life activity of learning.</i></p> |

Possible Accommodations

- Train staff and prepare an emergency plan—school nurse.
- Monitor and/or administer medications—school nurse.
- Change seating.
- Provide rest time and academic considerations following seizure.
- Avoid using chalkboards.
- Provide an alternative recess.
- Provide clean rooms and avoid rooms with carpet.
- Provide education for peers and staff about epilepsy.
- Plan for academic make-up work so individual can catch up with peers.

OBESITY

EXAMPLE: A student has an eating disorder that may require special accommodations. Obesity may be considered a disability under Section 504 where it substantially impairs the major life activity of mobility.

Possible Accommodations

- Provide special seating modifications.
- Make dietary modifications.
- Adjust meal schedule.
- Adapt physical education program.
- Allow extra time to get to classes.
- Educate peers about eating disorders.
- Adapt restrooms.
- Begin a peer support group.
- Allow more passing time.
- Ensure privacy for self-care.
- Provide school counseling.
- Provide for elevator privileges or other accommodations—for example, individuals in wheelchairs or with other disabilities that prevent them from using stairs.
- Arrange classroom furniture to provide room to negotiate and move around classroom seating.
- Arrange for peer counseling/helping to deal with esteem issues; also peer attitudes, teasing, etc.
- Address busing concerns to ensure room on buses for seating.

- Arrange to provide opportunities for the individual to participate in intramural events.
- Provide proper and safe transportation to and from school.
- Make any class location changes that may be needed.
- Promote out-of-school support.
- Adjust attendance policy.

| |
|--------------------------------|
| ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED |
|--------------------------------|

| |
|--|
| <p><i>EXAMPLE: The student has limited mobility and is confined to a wheelchair. The impairment substantially limits the major life activity of walking and caring for one's self.</i></p> |
|--|

Possible Accommodations

- Develop a health care and emergency plan—school nurse.
- Provide an adaptive physical education program.
- If necessary, provide physical therapy at school.
- Check facilities regarding physical accessibility.
- Provide extra time to get to class.
- Supply a set of textbooks for home.
- Provide a copy of class notes from a peer.
- Practice emergency exit from school building.

STUDENT FORMERLY RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

EXAMPLE: The student has exited from a special education program but still needs some academic accommodations to function in a general classroom. The learning disability still substantially limits the major life activity of learning.

Possible Accommodations

- Conduct an evaluation to determine possible Section 504 eligibility.
- Network; plan with all staff.
- Maintain ongoing monitoring of progress; notify staff.
- Establish daily/weekly progress reports.
- Allow for academic accommodations in the general education classroom.
- Provide mentoring services at school.
- Consider Title I services.
- Provide after-school tutoring.
- Provide peer tutoring.
- Adjust homework assignments.
- Have student work toward more independent achievement of assignments within a structured environment (build self-esteem).
- Contact previous special education teachers for suggestions.
- Review files of progress reports and see what plans were successful.

STUDENT WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

EXAMPLE: The student has a special health care problem and requires clean intermittent catheterization twice each day. The impairment substantially limits the major life activity of caring for one's self.

Possible Accommodations

- Develop health care and emergency plan—school nurse.
- Apply universal precautions.
- Provide trained personnel to perform special procedures.
- Provide student with private location and time to perform procedures.
- Involve school nurse, parents, teachers, and staff.
- Allow preferential seating.
- Modify recess/PE/transportation.
- Reevaluate/update periodically.
- If necessary, modify attendance policy.
- Establish health alert—every staff member involved with this student is aware of the health problem and of proper procedures.
- Provide a beeper/paging system for trained personnel.
- Begin a disability awareness program upon parent or student request.
- If necessary, provide school counseling.
- Arrange for trained personnel for school field trips.

TEMPORARILY DISABLED

A temporary impairment does not constitute a disability for purposes of Section 504 unless its severity is such that it results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities for an extended period of time. The issue of whether a temporary impairment is substantial enough to be a disability must be resolved on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration both the duration (or expected duration) of the impairment and the extent to which it actually limits a major life activity of the affected individual.

EXAMPLE: A student was in an automobile accident and will be homebound and/or hospitalized for a period of time. The student is considered temporarily disabled and is substantially limited in the major life activity of walking.

Possible Accommodations

- Provide duplicate sets of texts and tape record lessons.
- Schedule periodic home-school meetings.
- Arrange for student to leave class early to get to next class.
- Provide access to elevators.
- Excuse from or adapt physical education program.
- Arrange for a friend to assist student in getting from class to class (support network).
- Provide a cordless telephone/beeper.
- Provide school counseling—trauma from accident.
- Provide physical therapy as necessary.
- Arrange for a tutor.
- Arrange for peer notes.
- Provide help with getting lunch tray.
- Change seating arrangements to accommodate needs.
- Modify assignments depending on disability.
- Modify completion of assignment.

- Allow more time for test completion.
- Allow shortened days; adjust attendance policy.
- Address special accommodations of a wheelchair.
- Inservice staff and class and prepare an emergency care plan.
- Switch classrooms to main floor.
- Test verbally.
- Provide peer assistance for social involvement (keep student informed of social activities).

| |
|--|
| TOURETTE SYNDROME |
| <i>EXAMPLE: The student exhibits inappropriate gestures and sounds in the classroom and hallways. The impairment substantially limits the major life activity of learning.</i> |

Possible Accommodations

- Educate other student and staff about Tourette Syndrome.
- Pair with a neighboring student to prevent tardiness or absenteeism.
- Provide student with a means of catching up on missed lessons.
- Pair with a fellow student for study.
- Arrange for frequent parental interaction.
- Administer medication, if necessary—school nurse.
- Provide supervision for transition activities.
- Modify assignments.
- Provide alternative workspace.
- Cue student for inappropriate behavior.
- Furnish supervision while student is acting out.

- Inservice teachers about different discipline procedures.

| TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY |
|--|
| <i>EXAMPLE: The student sustained a brain injury in an automobile accident. Many academic and motor skills have been lost from the injury. The condition substantially limits the major life activity of learning.</i> |

Possible Accommodations

- Arrange for a health care and emergency plan.
- Provide extended school year/time.
- Furnish memory/organizational aids.
- Provide alternative testing.
- Initiate tutoring programs.
- Inservice staff and peers about TBI.
- Implement an academic monitoring process.