

Individualized Health Plan

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to contact the school nurse and report their student's medical diagnosis and needs.

The nurse will then assist the parent/guardian in acquiring the necessary documentation needed for their student in order to have their medical needs met during the school day.

After documentation is received, the nurse will report to the appropriate school staff what the student's needs are and will develop a care plan for meeting these needs during the school day.

The nurse works closely with the parents/guardians/ school administrators, teachers, and other appropriate staff members making sure the student's medical needs are met allowing them access to their education program.

Parents/guardians must remain in close contact with the nurse and report any changes in their student's health and or medical plan.

What is an Individualized Health Plan IHP?

An IHP is a plan that considers how to deal with what might happen with a student medically while the student is in school. It is designed to address medical issues that do not impact the student's learning. An IHP is a formal agreement that outlines the student's needs and a plan for addressing those needs. Parents or caregivers, the student, the student's health care provider, and a multidisciplinary team of school staff work together to develop the IHP.

An IHP serves both the student and the school. It gives the student and his or her family the opportunity to discuss their concerns with school staff, and helps establish student, family, and school roles and responsibilities. It clarifies important things like how medication will be administered, how the student's health status will be monitored, the location where care will be provided, and who will be providing the care. It should provide for staff training and specify who will provide that training. It can serve as the basis for ongoing teamwork, both between the family and school staff and among staff members. It also provides the school with an accurate, centralized source of information about the student's medical needs, and with direction and authorization should a health need arise suddenly. To be sure the plan remains current, review dates should be written into the plan.

The IHP format varies from state to state and often from district to district. Unlike an IEP or 504 Plan, which has a standardized format, IHPs are developed by the school district. An IHP can be used alone or in conjunction with a 504 Plan. If your child's circumstances change or you are not satisfied with the staff response, you can always request a meeting with the school. As an IHP is an agreement and not a legally binding document, there is no legal recourse if the district does not comply with the document.

Does my child need an IHP?

If your child has a health impairment or physical disability, he or she should have an IHP. It documents his or her needs and the services to be provided to that child.. The medical care component of the student is not addressed in the 504 Plan or IEP.

How do I develop an IHP?

The first step is to speak with your child's health care provider(s). Discuss the school environment and together try to outline the health issues that might need to be addressed while your child is at school. This should include things you plan on, such as your child receiving medication, and things you don't plan on. Ask your child's health care provider(s) to document your child's health needs and what he or she feels your child requires for support. Then speak with the school about developing an IHP. Bring all of the documentation with you when you meet with school staff.

What is a 504 Plan?

A 504 Plan is a legally binding agreement between the parent(s) and the school district. It is a part of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Children who have disabilities that do not interfere with their ability to progress in general education are not eligible for special education services, but they may be entitled to the protection provided by a 504 Accommodation Plan. 504 Plans are used widely and for diverse needs. They can cover a single issue or several concerns.

504 Plans typically address accommodations in academic areas, but they can also be applied to nonacademic areas (such as band) and extra-curricular activities, to allow the student to have the whole school experience. The 504 Plan can follow the student to college and is also applicable in the workplace.

A 504 Plan can be requested by the family or school personnel. It is developed by the parents and a team of school staff. The school team usually includes an administrator and a case manager. In many cases where the issues addressed in the 504 are related to the child's medical conditions, the medical team is also included as an active participant.

Does my child need a 504 Plan?

If your child's medical issues significantly limit one or more major life activities, including school, then he or she should have a 504 Plan. The goal of a 504 Plan is to level the playing field by providing accommodations and modifications that allow the student the same opportunities as their "typical" peers.

When you are considering whether your child needs a 504 Plan, it is a good idea to think about all the concerns created by his or her home nutrition needs. If you have several concerns then a 504 Plan might be helpful. Before the 504 Plan meeting, think of what your child might need while he or she is at school, and what accommodations your child might require to meet those needs.

Source: <https://oley.org>