

## **ACCOMODATING STUDENTS WITH DIABETES**

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The school nurse is appointed to:

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

The district shall develop and follow an individual health plan for each student with diabetes. Each individual health care plan shall include an individual emergency care plan. The health plans shall 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 (PDA) under this policy, but they shall not be required to participate. Parent-designated adults who are school employees shall file 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 a health care provider or expert in diabetes care selected by the parents, and who provides care for the child consistent with the individual health care plan. Parents, rather than the school, are responsible for the training of the PDA. 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 shall 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 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 shall:

- 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.
- Provide in-service training for all school employees in schools attended by diabetic students. In-service training should include training on symptoms, treatment and monitoring of students with diabetes, and on the additional observations that may be needed in different situations that may arise during the school day and during school sponsored events.

- Provide specific training in proper procedures for care of students with diabetes to school employees who have responsibility for diabetic students. Such training must include information on individual students' health care plan requirements, as well as information on symptoms, treatment and monitoring of students with diabetes.
- Permit students with diabetes to perform blood glucose test, administer insulin, and 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 of 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 shall not be withheld from any student for disciplinary reasons. Students with diabetes shall 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, to include emergency actions for low and high blood sugar, 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 chapter 350, Laws of 2002.

**Legal References:** Ch. 350, laws of 2002  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
PL 101-336 Americans with Disabilities Act  
RCW 28A.210.300 – 350 Students with Diabetes/Individual Health  
Plans, Designation of Professional to  
consult with parents and health care  
provider, Training and Supervision of  
School District Personnel

**Adopted:** July 28, 2003  
**Revised:** January 9, 2006  
**Revised:** August 24, 2009