

# Policies

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## Westerly Public Schools Diabetes Care Management

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This protocol allows children who are diagnosed with diabetes to self-manage their disease whenever possible to ensure optimum health and safety for the child while at school or at school-sponsored activities.

Diabetes is a serious, chronic disease that impairs the body's ability to use food properly due to the inability of the pancreas to make insulin (the hormone which helps the body convert food into energy) or to use insulin properly. Without insulin, glucose (sugar), the body's main energy source, builds up in the blood. Diabetic students may manage their illness by using injectable or infused insulin, oral hypoglycemic agents, and/or dietary modifications. In the school setting blood glucose levels can become too high (hyperglycemia) or too low (hypoglycemia) and require monitoring through blood glucose testing.

- It is important that diabetic care be managed and accommodated in the school setting through collaboration with the student, parent/family, licensed care providers, school administrator, school nurse teacher, classroom teacher, specialists and any other staff who may have contact with the student.
- Both the Individualized Health Care Plan and Emergency Care Plan will be developed by the certified school nurse-teacher for each diabetic student in the school setting. The school nurse teacher will inform the cafeteria staff, recess staff, bus drivers, staff involved in school sponsored activities and anyone else with a "need to know", of these plans to facilitate appropriate care.
- Students with diabetes should be taught and encouraged to independently care for their disease to the best of their ability, based on age, developmental stage, skills performance and input from the certified school nurse teacher. Students who are able to self test, self administer insulin and to manage their diabetic care must be allowed to do so in the classroom or other appropriate place(s) if the student and certified school nurse teacher deem that this is appropriate. Adequate means for safe disposal of testing equipment will be provided.
- A physician's order will be on file to address accommodations including, but not limited to, diabetic self care in the school setting.
- All diabetic students will be allowed to consume snacks in the classroom or other appropriate location, such as the bus, when necessary. Students will also be able to use the bathroom and water fountain as needed.
- All symptomatic diabetic students will have access to the school clinic and shall be accompanied to a health clinic area by an adult.

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All school personnel who may be involved in the care of a student who has been diagnosed with diabetes shall be informed of the individualized health care plan (IHCP) and the emergency care plan (ECP) as appropriate.

Diabetic care performed in the health room/clinic will be documented using the individualized student health record and data will be communicated to the parent/family/health care provider as per the individualized care plan.

Adopted: November 16, 2005

Revised: January 3, 2007