

5 Reasons Your Child with Diabetes Should Have a **Section 504 Plan**

You might wonder why your child needs a Section 504 plan. Maybe you already have a Diabetes Medical Management Plan (DMMP) or provider's orders. Or maybe your child is doing well in school and their diabetes needs are being met. Here are 5 reasons a 504 plan should be put in place even if your child is thriving and your school is supportive.

What is a 504 Plan? A 504 plan is developed under the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1978. It is a legally binding document requiring your child's schools to provide needed services to ensure a safe, healthy, and fair environment, and support a child needs to thrive in school activities.

- 1. A 504 plan clarifies your school's responsibilities.** Have peace of mind knowing that a 504 plan is a legally binding agreement setting out what your child needs to be safe and successful at school. If a school does not comply, there are remedies.
- 2. Set up your child for success.** Diabetes is a 24/7 condition. Diabetes cannot be put on pause during tests, extra-curriculars, or other school activities. A 504 plan helps make sure your child's diabetes needs are met at all times and they receive fair and equal treatment.
- 3. 504 plans are individualized for your child's unique needs.** Every child's diabetes management needs are different. Whether your child self-manages or requires assistance from school staff, a 504 plan sets out the school's responsibilities for meeting these needs.
- 4. A 504 plan applies to all school activities.** Ensure your child is treated fairly and can fully participate in all school-sponsored activities (field trips, sports, etc.) with needed diabetes care and support.
- 5. Ensures the family, school staff, and providers are on the same page.** 504 plans encourage communication between a child's parents/guardians, diabetes providers, school nurse, and other school staff. Ongoing communication keeps everyone informed and updated.

Additional Resources:

- ADA's Safe at School sample 504 plan (**English**) (**Spanish**)
- ADA's Safe at School: **Frequently Asked Questions for Parents**
- **ADA Safe at School** homepage

Need more information and resources? Contact us at **1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)** or email [**AskADA@diabetes.org**](mailto:AskADA@diabetes.org).