



Here are some suggestions

To help you develop a plan that will meet the unique health needs of your child while he or she attends school.

- ♥ Use a team approach involving your child's doctor (s) and school personnel, especially the school nurse and teacher.
- ♥ Begin early to help your child learn how to participate in developing the plan for their own health care needs.
- ♥ Consider that it may be appropriate for your child to take the lead in managing health needs at school. If not, establish who is responsible.
- ♥ Make sure the team has sufficient understanding about your child's condition. Work with your child's doctor to get them good information.
- ♥ Keep good records and communicate regularly with your child and the school.
- ♥ Know your rights. Family Voices and other organizations can help you find out more about federal and state laws that may apply to your child.

♥ Where to find more information:

NH Family Voices
1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4525

Parent Information Center
1-800-947-7005

NH Department of Education
(603) 271-3494

**American Academy of Pediatrics
School Health Resources Web Page**
www.schoolhealth.org

**Center for Health & Health Care
in Schools**
(phone: 202-466-3396)
www.healthinschools.org

National Association of School Nurses
(phone: 207-883-2117)
www.nasn.org



NH Family Voices
A Family to Family Health
Information and Education Center

E-mail: nhfv@yahoo.com
Web: www.nhfv.org

Meeting Your Child's Health Care and Related Needs at School



A Guide for Families Of Children with Special Health Care Needs

NH Family Voices
1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4525
www.nhfv.org

Children Have Rights at School

All children have rights related to public education in the United States. Your child may qualify for additional legal protections under one or more federal laws, if his or her disability or health condition affects learning or the ability to participate in school programs. These federal laws include:

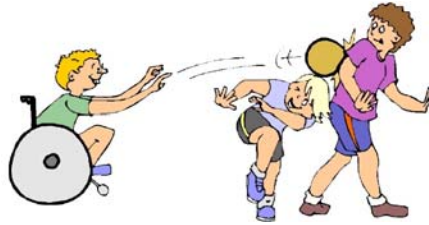
♥ The IDEA, or Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which provides early intervention, special education and related services to eligible children from birth to age 21.

♥ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability or special health care need.

♥ The ADA or Americans with Disability Act, which also prohibits discrimination based on disability.

The question of whether a particular condition is considered a disability under IDEA, Section 504, or the ADA is determined on an individual basis. The answer could mean that your child may receive supportive services, special accommodations or modifications to the regular school program.

Contact your local school district to find out if your child qualifies for IDEA, Section 504 or the ADA provisions.



More About IDEA and 504

A formal evaluation is required to determine if your child can get IDEA services and protections if eligible. Children up to age three receive early intervention (Part C) services according to a written Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) that the parent helps develop.

Children age three and older receive special education or related services based on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that is developed by a team at school that includes parents.

The IDEA defines "related services" as "transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes speech-language pathology and audiology services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy... counseling services, orientation and mobility services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes."

A 1999 Supreme Court decision, known as *Garrett F.*, determined that schools must provide IDEA - eligible children with any nursing services required by the child during the school day.

The ruling helped reinforce the law's intent to educate children with disabilities alongside their typical peers whenever possible.

The school system can ask a student's family to allow family health insurance to pay for health-related services at school, but families do not have to use their insurance for these purposes.

School districts may also bill your child's Medicaid for some services provided by the school. By federal law, IDEA pays for services that a child needs after Medicaid has paid.

A child's mental, physical, or health condition can be such that it becomes difficult or impossible to attend school. Children who are homebound or in a hospital or care facility still have the right to receive appropriate education or related services.

Children with health conditions who do not meet IDEA eligibility may qualify to have a written 504 plan that addresses the student's special health needs at school.

Confidentiality Rights

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA is a federal law that assures privacy and limits access to students records of all students.

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