

Policy Development for the Management of Diabetes in School Settings

Most youngsters spend many hours of their days at school and school-related activities. It is the responsibility of school systems to plan for and maintain a safe environment for all students during school hours, school transport, as well as during school related activities.

A **policy** is a set of rules designed to reach certain objectives which aid in decision making. Comprehensive health care policies and procedures for students with diabetes help support and maintain a safe school environment for students with diabetes while allowing them to enjoy the same access to education and fully participate in all school-sponsored activities as do others.

When writing school policies regarding the care and management of students with diabetes, applicable federal and state law requirements must be met. Indiana has a specific law regarding the care of students with diabetes. This law is: IC 20-34-5 “Care of the Student with Diabetes” This law was enacted in 2007 and it applies to all public schools, including charter schools.

Suggestions for Indiana School Districts to Consider When Developing Policies and Procedures

When composing school district policy and procedures addressing the school’s role in diabetes management, the following components should be considered for incorporation:

- School Nurse Availability During the School Day
- Development of the Diabetes Medical Management Plan
- Development of the Emergency Action Plan
- Development of the Individual Health Care Plan
- Roles of Volunteer Health Aides During School and School-Related Activities
- Provision of Staff Training and Education
- School System Planning for Emergency Response
- Management of Diabetes in the Classroom
- Management of Diabetes During School Activities Outside of the Classroom
- Student Self-Management Provisions
- Responsibilities of Parents
- Responsibilities of Students