



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF CALIFORNIA STUDENTS WITH DIABETES

Kids win! That's the final word in the American Diabetes Association's eight-year legal battle to ensure California students with diabetes have access to the care they need to be Safe at School.

In August 2013 a unanimous California Supreme Court ruled state law permits trained school staff members who are not health care professionals – such as teachers, principals and coaches – to give insulin to students with diabetes. The Association is ready to help families and schools take the necessary steps to implement this important ruling and make sure California school children have access to diabetes care at school and all school-sponsored activities.

Below are important steps you can take to make sure your child is Safe at School

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S TREATMENT PLAN IS CURRENT. Work with your child's provider to create physician's orders (sometimes called a Diabetes Medical Management Plan or DMMP) that spell out your child's school diabetes care regimen. This should include times and dosages for insulin administration, blood glucose monitoring, glucagon administration, carbohydrate content for meals and snacks, and recognition and treatment of hypo- and hyperglycemia. The plan should also say what tasks your child can do independently and which tasks require school staff assistance.

NEED HELP UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION MEANS, WRITING YOUR CHILD'S 504, OR RESOLVING A PROBLEM? Call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-DIABETES (342-2382) and request to speak with an Association legal advocacy staff member. Also, more California specific information for parents/guardians can be found at:

www.diabetes.org/caschoollitigation

MAKE SURE THE SCHOOL HAS STAFF AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE DIABETES CARE TO YOUR CHILD. Most California schools don't have a full time nurse and, even in those that do, the nurse is not always available. But California law allows schools to use other staff to administer insulin and glucagon with your written request and the treating physician's authorization, and federal law requires that all public – and many private – schools provide needed diabetes care to your child. In addition, if your child is capable and your doctor agrees, he or she must be allowed to provide his or her own care in the classroom or elsewhere at school. And your child cannot be required to attend a particular school to receive diabetes care.

BE A RESOURCE FOR THE SCHOOL. You can help the school nurse and school administrators educate school personnel by providing information about diabetes. It is also important for you to explain how your child's individual needs are met. Identifying diabetes educators (perhaps your child's educator) to train school personnel can also be a big help.

WRITE A 504 PLAN OR INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP). Work with the school's 504 coordinator to develop a plan to specify what services your child needs at school. Having this plan in writing is the best way to protect your child's rights. The 504 Plan or IEP should be consistent with your child's DMMP or physician's orders.

PROVIDE SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND FOOD. Be sure there are plenty of blood glucose strips, insulin, glucagon, food to treat a "low", and other needed supplies at school.