

JULY 2007
**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR CALIFORNIA FAMILIES
OF CHILDREN WITH DIABETES...**

Diabetes care at school is an important issue for us all.

Because there are several key factors unique to California, it is even more important for us as a ‘diabetes community’ to become vigilant advocates for our children with diabetes:

- California has one of the highest ratios of students to school nurses in the country (2150:1)
- In 2003, only 5% of California public schools had a full-time nurse on campus. The majority of California schools either have no nurse or a part-time nurse who is likely assigned to multiple campuses. In many instances, the nurse is on campus for only a few hours a week, if at all. (While it is a desirable goal to have a full-time nurse on every campus, this will not occur within the foreseeable future. Because diabetes necessitates round-the-clock care, diabetes medical professionals and diabetes organizations continue to deem appropriate the training of non-licensed school personnel to administer care to students with diabetes.)

Recognizing that these and other factors jeopardize the safety and equal educational opportunities of children with diabetes, **DREDF has been actively advocating for the rights of all children with diabetes in the state of California through a class action lawsuit filed against the California Department of Education and two school districts that failed to provide adequate diabetes care.**

How can you help?

Advocate. Advocate. Advocate. As a diabetes community, we must take a firm stand and advocate for our children's rights. Diabetes parents can protect their child's rights by establishing a **504 Plan** (or IEP, if appropriate) and **Individualized Healthcare Plan** that articulate the accommodations and daily care needs your child needs during the school day.

To learn more about advocating for your child at school, go to:

American Diabetes Association

www.diabetes.org/advocacy-and-legalresources/discrimination/school.jsp

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page_id=103439

DREDF Sample 504 Plan and Diabetes Medical Management Plan

<http://www.diabetes.org/living-with-diabetes/parents-and-kids/diabetes-care-at-school/written-care-plans/>

Where can you get help if you are having difficulty obtaining appropriate diabetes care for your child at school?

If your child is enrolled in a California public school and you are having difficulty in obtaining appropriate diabetes care, particularly insulin administration, you may wish to contact DREDF (Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund), which is based in Berkeley, CA.

To contact DREDF staff attorney Larisa Cummings, follow these steps:

1. Send an email to lcummings@dredf.org
2. In the subject line type the words:
“Problem in CA Public School”
3. In your email include the following information:
 - Your Name and Phone Number
 - Child's Age
 - Child's Diagnosis Date

- School Name
- School District Name and City
- Medical Needs Not Being Met
- Other Needs Not Being Met (e.g. field trips, medically-related absences, etc.)
- Frequency of Difficulty to Obtain Medical Services
- Indicate if child has a 504 Plan, IEP or other arrangement (explain).

Share your success stories with DREDF:

If your child is enrolled in a California public school and s/he is appropriately receiving delivery of diabetes medical care during the school day, DREDF is also eager to know of your success.

1. Send an email to lcummings@dredf.org
2. In the subject line type the words:
“Success in CA Public School”
3. In your email include the following information:
 - Your Name and Phone Number
 - Child’s Age
 - Child’s Diagnosis Date
 - School Name
 - School District Name and City
 - Medical Needs Being Met
 - Indicate if child has a 504 Plan, IEP or other arrangement (explain).

For those who do not have computer access:

Larisa Cummings can be reached at DREDF by calling 510-644-2555. ext 245.

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