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# Individual Health Plan (IHP)

## Frequently Asked Questions

Students with medical conditions may need extra support at school. Often, many of those supports are already provided through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or through accommodations as part of a 504 Plan. Sometimes, however, students with health needs can have those needs addressed at school without getting an IEP or 504 Plan, by using an **Individual Health Plan (IHP)**. These plans enable schools to address student's medical needs, even if the student does not need special education services or accommodations in the classroom. All students who have IHPs should be evaluated to determine if the IHP is sufficient to meet their needs, or if they need additional services through an IEP or 504 Plan.

### **What is an Individual Health Plan (IHP)?**

An IHP is a document, which is part of a student's school record, that explains the student's medical and health needs. It authorizes school personnel, such as a school nurse or other medically trained individuals, to provide for those needs and makes sure staff are informed of potential medical issues the student may experience at school.

### **Who should get an IHP?**

Any student who requires medical or health care at school should receive an IHP. IHPs can be part of IEPs or 504 Plans, or be stand-alone documents. Schools should evaluate a student's eligibility for an IEP or 504 Plan when implementing an IHP, since students with medical needs may also require additional learning supports in the classroom.

### **What is included in an IHP?**

IHPs should include a student's diagnoses, any medications the student is taking (especially ones that need to be administered at school), and any signs or symptoms of medical distress that school personnel should be aware of. The IHP should also include a plan for if the student experiences a medical issue at school, including ways for the student to inform staff of the issue and designated staff to contact the parent or guardian.

### **What rights come with an IHP?**

IHPs do not have the procedural rights that come with IEPs and 504 Plans, which is one reason why students needing an IHP should be evaluated for eligibility under those programs. An IHP should be followed by school staff to ensure the safety of the student, but IHP's do not have defined legal remedies for families if the plan is not followed.

### **When are IHPs updated/amended?**

IHPs are updated in accordance with school policy, but typically should be updated annually and whenever a student's medical needs have changed. Parents should update their child's school any time a medical need changes, such as receiving a new diagnosis or medication.