

## Education Services

Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters offers educational services through the Hospital School Program. This is a state operated program which has teachers and educational consultants who provide year-round educational services for patients, ages 2 through 21. They work with physicians, nurses, and local schools to help children with chronic illnesses continue their studies. The program offers a continuum of services that cover inpatient status, and outpatient clinics.

Educational Consultants work in selected outpatient clinics and services are provided at no cost to the patient or family. The Consultants are a group of certified personnel with training in educational assessment and knowledge of chronic health conditions that may impact a child's education.

Patients living with chronic illnesses and chronic medical conditions experience health adversities in addition to disruptions in their daily school routines. School absences, academic failure or even a change in the patient's medical condition can jeopardize school success. The consultant provides an important connection between school personnel, medical staff and families by ensuring the patient has appropriate accommodations in the classroom and quality of life can be maintained while living with a chronic illness. School interventions may include:

### 504 Plan

- The "504 plan" refers to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, which specifies that no one with a disability can be excluded from participating in federally funded programs or activities, including elementary, secondary or postsecondary schooling. "Disability" in this context refers to a "physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities." This can include physical impairments; illnesses or injuries; communicable diseases; chronic conditions like asthma, allergies and diabetes; and learning problems. A [504 plan](#) spells out the modifications and accommodations that will be needed for these students to have an opportunity perform at the same level as their peers.

Parents may exercise their right to contact their child's school principal and request a meeting to discuss the need for school accommodations and modifications. It may be essential to their child's learning, emotional, and/or medical needs. The principal may refer the child to a school-based committee, such as the Child Study Committee. The committee will determine how the child's learning, emotional, and/or medical needs are met in school.

It is important for the parent to provide pertinent medical information to the principal and the school-based committee. This medical information may include a Student Health Information Packet or other documents from the physician, stating a diagnosis, severity of the condition, medication, and possible accommodations.

There are a wide range of possible accommodations that may assist children with cystic fibrosis at school. These accommodations need to be individualized to fit the needs of the child. Some children with CF may require no accommodations due to their health care condition and others may require several. It is important to discuss your child's needs with the CF healthcare team.

Examples of possible accommodations:

Bathroom access

Access to water

Extra food or snack or tube feeding

Self administration of pancreatic enzymes

Exemption from the attendance/tardiness policy

Extended time for tests, homework assignments

Modification of workload to accommodate health status, fatigue and absences

Physical Education modifications

Homework sent home after absences due to health

Second set of textbooks at home

Class schedule adaptations to address medical needs

Intermittent homebound education

It is best to review your child's needs at the beginning of every school year and to have a plan ready to meet the possible needs of your child through the year. Parts of the plan may only be implemented if needed due to the child's health condition. There are materials available through the healthcare team at the CF Center at CHKD to provide information on cystic fibrosis for the school personnel. [A Teachers Guide to Cystic Fibrosis](#) is also available online through the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation website.

[http://www.cff.org/LivingWithCF/AtSchool/TeachersGuide/#Individualized\\_Education\\_Plan](http://www.cff.org/LivingWithCF/AtSchool/TeachersGuide/#Individualized_Education_Plan)

How does a 504 plan differ from an IEP?

**Answer:** A 504 plan, which falls under civil-rights law, is an attempt to remove barriers and allow students with disabilities to participate freely; like the Americans With Disabilities Act, it seeks to level the playing field so that those students can safely pursue the same opportunities as everyone else. An IEP, which falls under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, is much more concerned with actually providing educational services. Students eligible for an [IEP](#), or Individualized Education Plan, represent a small subset of all students with disabilities. They generally require more than a level playing field -- they require significant remediation and assistance, and are more likely to work on their own level at their own pace even in an inclusive classroom. Only certain classifications of disability are eligible for an IEP, and students who do not meet those classifications but still require some assistance to be able to participate fully in school would be candidates for a 504 plan.

### **An Individualized Health Care Plan**

An Individualized Health Care Plan is needed to manage the child's health needs at school. The school nurse is responsible for developing a Health Care Plan, facilitating staff and student counseling, and providing in-services regarding the child's medical condition. The nurse also maintains contact with the child's physician for any updated medical information. Each child should have a written Individualized Health Care Plan specifically for his/her medical needs. The parents/guardians, as well as the school personnel having contact with the child, should have a written copy of the Individualized Health Care Plan.

## Homebound Services

- The goal of homebound services is to facilitate a student's return to the classroom setting. Homebound instruction is designed to provide a continuity of educational services between classrooms and homes or health care facilities for students whose medical needs, both physical and psychiatric, prevent school attendance. Homebound may be used to supplement the classroom program for children with health impairments whose conditions may interfere with regular school attendance (e.g. students receiving dialysis, or radiation/chemotherapy; or children with disabilities). Homebound instruction is available to all students who are enrolled in public school in Virginia, and can be provided to student when confined in other counties or states by their home school division. A licensed physician or licensed clinical psychologist must certify a student for homebound services. Each school division has its own protocol for implementing services; therefore, parents should contact the school administration for specific procedures.

## School Services

- **Child Study Team**

Every public school is required by law to have a formal child study team. This team is a group of professionals which meets to suggest resources and recommend interventions for the regular education teacher prior to considering testing for special education services. The child study team may meet to, review prior interventions and assessments, problem solve for new interventions or recommend the need for a comprehensive evaluation.

### Why refer to the child study team?

- repeating a grade
- repeating core classes
- having difficulty with school work
- making no progress (E's on report card at least two quarters)
- receiving continuous notes and phone calls from teacher
- having a medical condition that affects school performance
- skipping school often or frequent absences
- having a limited speaking ability

### Who can refer to the child study team?

- the parent
- the student's teacher
- the administrator (principal or assistant principal)
- an outside agency (physician, counselor, social worker, etc.)
- any individual involved in the education and care of your child

**Department of Education** (DOE) website [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/students\\_parents/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/students_parents/index.shtml) is an excellent resource which provides information regarding: special education, graduation requirements SOL testing, complaint or mediation process etc.

