

504 Law

Historically, children with diabetes have been protected from discrimination by a federal civil rights law known as “Section 504”. This law applies to all public schools and daycares and those private schools that receive federal funding. The law essentially supports that children with diabetes should have equal access to all educational and school-sponsored opportunities, that they should be educated with other students as much as possible and that parents should be allowed to participate in decision making regarding the care and education of their child.

Under this law, you have the right to ask for a 504 meeting to develop a 504 plan with your school. This plan is a legal agreement between you and the school that sets out what services and modifications will be available to your child. It is based on the DMMP that is discussed in an earlier section.

Not every child with diabetes has a formal 504 plan. Some schools are very comfortable with automatically making whatever accommodations are needed for a child with diabetes. In other cases, a 504 is needed in order to make sure “everyone is on the same page” in regards to caring for your child.