

Plans to Support Students in School

Note: *This information is applicable to students with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.*

🔥 **Individualized Education Programs (IEPs):** IEPs outline special education services and supports when learning is affected by a student's condition. IEPs protect students and provide access to learning experiences comparable to peers. Students with hemophilia may not need IEPs unless learning is affected.

🔥 **Individualized Healthcare Plans (IHPs):** IHPs are nursing documents that outline specific steps school healthcare providers should take to care for health-related events that occur at school, like nosebleeds or joint bleeds. IHPs are designed to “assure consistent, safe health care for the student, protect the school nurse..., and provide documentation regarding the extent of [healthcare] services provided” ([Virginia Department of Education](#)). IHPs are appropriate for all students with hemophilia.

🔥 **Section 504 Accommodation Plans (504 Plans or 504s):** 504s protect students and outline adjustments to school practices, policies, and procedures to “level the playing field” so students have safe access to academic and non-academic experiences comparable to peers. 504s are appropriate for students with hemophilia.

Things to know:

- IHPs are narrow and focus on nursing care for health events that occur at school. IEPs and 504s are more broad and focus on aspects of school beyond nursing care, like modifications to school policies, practices, or procedures.
- IEPs and 504s are governed by federal laws that ensure students have access to school in ways comparable to peers (a “Free Appropriate Public Education [FAPE]). Schools are legally obligated to identify children who qualify for IEPs and 504s.
- School healthcare providers develop IHPs in conjunction with families, students, and a medical provider when desired. IEPs and 504s are developed by teams of individuals that include the school healthcare provider, teachers, parents/caregivers, and others.
- Students cannot have both an IEP and 504. They may have one or the other. (Use HFA's flow chart to see whether an [IEP or 504](#) is appropriate for a student.)
- IHPs are often included as part of 504s. But, an IHP “cannot suffice for the entire Section 504 Plan” (Sampson & Galemore, 2012, p. 92). Schools “should be cautious of a policy or practice of providing IHPs to students...rather than determining their individual eligibility under Section 504 (Kim & Samples, 2013, p. 4).

Updated August, 2016. Information provided is intended for educational purposes. Consult healthcare providers for medical advice.

Kim, D., & Samples, E. (2013). Comparing individual healthcare plans and Section 504 plans: School districts' obligation to determine eligibility for students with health related conditions. *The Urban Lawyer*, 45(1), 263.

Sampson, C. H., & Galemore, C. A. (2012). What every school nurse needs to know about Section 504 eligibility. *NASN School Nurse*, 27(2), 88-93.