



American Diabetes Association® (ADA) Safe at School® Working Group's Information on Students with Diabetes Access to Smart Devices

Many students with diabetes use medical devices which require access to a smart phone to monitor their blood glucose (blood sugar) levels, administer insulin, and share data with school nurses, trained school staff, and other caregivers in accordance with their individualized Diabetes Medical Management Plan/provider's orders. Students who use these devices will require continuous access to a smart device(s) such as a cell phone, smart watch, or tablet to monitor and safely manage their diabetes throughout the school day and at all school-sponsored activities.

These students must be exempt from the cell phone restrictions that are contained in some state laws and regulations, as well as school district and/or school policy, at all times within the school setting. Students with diabetes who use a smart device to manage their diabetes require the following related aids and services that should be included in the student's individualized written plans (e.g., Diabetes Medical Management Plan, Individualized Healthcare Plan, 504 Plan, Individualized Education Program):

- Access to a smart device and diabetes management-related applications to monitor and manage diabetes care
- Access to school Wi-Fi on a smart device
- Access to a smart device within twenty feet of the student at all times including during exams and standardized testing
- Other related smart device access as deemed necessary by the student's diabetes health care provider and parent/guardian or as otherwise agreed upon in the student's written plans

Such devices are paramount to the student's ongoing diabetes care, health, and safety. These devices are essential for the student's optimal learning and academic performance and participation in all school-sponsored activities. Denying a student access to these devices increases the risk that the student may experience life-threatening complications such as hypoglycemia (low blood glucose) or diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA). Schools must permit and support students with diabetes to access their devices to remain safe and healthy at school.

More information and resources about smart device access and the Safe at School® initiative of the American Diabetes Association are available at diabetes.org/safeatschool.

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