

Recommended School Accommodations For Youth with Sickle Cell Disease

Academic Accommodations-

- Concerns regarding attendance should be discussed with the school to create a systematic method for collecting and handing in missed assignments
- **Monitoring:** Ask teachers to carefully monitor your child for cognitive and/or behavioral changes. These changes could indicate SCD-related changes that need to be discussed with the family and medical providers
- Increased communication between home and school
- Providing a written copy of orally-presented material so student can concentrate on material instead of taking notes
- Ask that your child take tests in a quiet distraction free environment
- Additional time to complete timed assignments, examinations, and missed work
- Preferential seating near the front of the class
- Assignments missed due to health problems or appointments should be reasonable shortened to ensure that the total amount of make-up work is not too overwhelming
- Pairing with a peer who is encouraging of work completion and not distracting

Physical Accommodations

- Avoid having children and adolescents with Sickle Cell Disease lift heavy objects
- Ask for an extra set of books to keep at home avoiding having to carry heavy books to and from school in a backpack
- Permission to ride the elevator at school
- Allowance of rest periods as needed to prevent fatigue
- To prevent child from becoming too chilled, helpful accommodations include
 - seating away from air conditioner vents in the summer months
 - access to a coat, jacket, sweater, or blanket

Health-Maintenance Behaviors

- **Access to drinking water** as needed (may include permission to carry a water bottle to class or to be excused as needed to drink from the water fountain)
- **Restroom access** as needed-children and adolescents with Sickle Cell disease need to use the rest room at their request; they should not be told to wait
- **Go to nurse** if complains of pain, headache, chills, etc
- Use of a heating pad for pain events as needed (supplied by parent) and AVOID using ice for injuries
- Ask the school to inform parents and medical team if any behavioral or emotional changes are noted

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