

# GLADEWATER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT©

## Guidelines for Managing Students With Diabetes in the School

The Gladewater Independent School District is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to all students. No student shall, on the basis of disability, be denied the opportunity to participate in any program or service the District offers to all students. When a student who presents any health care need enrolls in GISD's schools, an appropriate health care plan is developed to serve the student, in addition to any other programs or plans that may also be developed to ensure the student receives a free appropriate public education. These guidelines set out the procedures that GISD follows in managing students with diabetes in the schools.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Over 17 million Americans have diabetes. Diabetes, a serious chronic disease that impairs the way the body uses food, is one of the most common chronic diseases in school-aged children. Effective management of an individual's diabetes is crucial. The foundation for the management of a student with diabetes in the GISD is the student's Individual Health Plan (IHP) that is developed in collaboration with the student, parent, school nurse and other GISD personnel, as appropriate. The IHP includes the routine treatment and care that will be available for the student and emergency interventions that will be provided for the student. GISD provides a comprehensive training curriculum for staff to ensure those employees who work with the student understand the student's condition and how to provide routine treatment as well as emergency procedures. The training program is divided by levels, depending upon the actual contact the staff member is likely to have with the student.

### II. TRAINING

A. A multi-level training program has been developed to train all staff according to the level of contact the employee is likely to have with the student with diabetes. The training is consistent with the concepts set forth in relevant publications, including *Care of Children with Diabetes in the School and Day Care Setting*, published by the American Diabetes Association and the *Texas Guide to School Health Programs*, published by the Texas Department of Health.

#### B. Specific Training Curriculum

1. Level I. Training provided to all campus staff on an annual basis at the beginning of the school year. Level I Training provides general information on diabetes to ensure all building staff have some familiarity with the disease and its symptoms. The training is offered via the Safe Schools course, *Health Emergencies: Diabetic Awareness*.
2. Level II. Training provided at least annually to the campus staff who have regular direct contact with the identified diabetic student(s) on the campus. Level II

Training reviews the information provided in the Level I training and also provides the participants with specific information about the protocol and procedures that are required by the identified student's specific health care plan. Written training materials are provided to participants and the employee's participation in the training is documented. Emergency Care Plans are also given to each of these staff members.

3. Level III (Unlicensed Diabetic Care Assistant - UDCA). Training provided at least annually to at least three employees on each campus, in addition to the school nurse, who the campus principal has designated to receive the training. This group may include the principal, assistant principal, office staff, coaches, trainers, sponsors, teachers, etc. Level III Training includes detailed information about the care and emergency interventions required for hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia and includes hands-on training for blood and glucose testing and the administration of glucagon. Written training materials are provided to participants and the employee's participation in the training is documented.
4. Additional training is provided at any time it is needed including when a change in staff occurs or when a new diabetic student enrolls on a campus.

### **III. Guidance/Emergencies**

- A. GISD staff will contact the District RN or campus nurse for clarification on procedures concerning hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia or any other questions/concerns that arise regarding the student's care.
- B. If the District RN or campus nurse are not available, staff will contact the parent/guardian for guidance.
- C. If an emergency arises for a diabetic student, the following steps will occur:
  1. Staff will contact the District RN and/or campus nurse immediately and follow the student's Emergency Care Plan
  2. IF the a nurse is not available and/or the student appears to be in a life-threatening situation, staff will call 911 and the parent/guardian immediately

### **IV. DEVELOPING THE INDIVIDUAL HEALTH PLAN FOR A STUDENT**

- A. When a school nurse is notified that a student with diabetes will be in attendance at that campus, the nurse will immediately contact the student's parent or legal guardian to:
  1. Discuss the student's health status and management of diabetes care in the home.
  2. Discuss the level of care the parent anticipates the student will need at school.
  3. Discuss supplies and equipment that the parent will need to provide to the school.

2. Request that the parent obtain orders from the student's physician describing the treatment the student will receive to manage his or her diabetes at school.
  3. Obtain consent from the parent for UDCA's to provide care for the student at school.
- B. When the parent provides the information from the student's physician, the nurse will collaborate with the parent and student to review the information and specific healthcare information for the student's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP).
- C. The nurse will refer the student to the Campus Intervention Team to determine whether the student is eligible for 504 Services or should be referred for assessment for eligibility of special education services.
- D. The emergency care plan developed for the student will include all information needed to ensure the student's diabetes is appropriately managed at school. A copy will be given to all staff that have regular contact with the student during the school day including teachers, coaches and bus drivers.