

# Caring for Students with Diabetes in School

This Act directs the state department of education and the state association of school nurses to develop guidelines to train school nurses and other employees in the care needed for students with diabetes

This Act requires parents or guardians who seek diabetes care for their children at school to submit diabetes medical management plans to the schools their children attend. It generally permits students who have diabetes to possess supplies and equipment to monitor their glucose levels and administer insulin at school. It generally directs a school nurse or other trained personnel to help students manage their diabetes at school and to respond to diabetic emergencies such as when a student's blood glucose levels are outside their target range.

The Act limits the liability of school nurses and school employees who perform activities authorized by the Act.

Submitted as:

Georgia

[HB 879 \(AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE\)](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2012.

## Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1           Section 1. [*Short Title.*] An Act relating to student health in elementary and secondary  
2 education, and other purposes.

3  
4           Section 2. [*Findings.*] Insert findings clause.

5  
6           Section 3. [*Requirements for diabetic students.*]

7           (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

8                   (1) 'Diabetes medical management plan' means a document developed by the student's  
9 physician or other health care provider that sets out the health services, including the student's target  
10 range for blood glucose levels, needed by the student at school and is signed by the student's parent  
11 or guardian.

12                   (2) 'School' means any primary or secondary public school located within this state.

13                   (3) 'School employee' means any person employed by a local board of education or  
14 state chartered special school or any person employed by a local health department who is assigned  
15 to a public school.

16                   (4) 'Trained diabetes personnel' means a school employee who volunteers to be  
17 trained in accordance with this Code section. Such employee shall not be required to be a health care  
18 professional.

19           (b)(1) No later than [insert date], the Department of Education, in conjunction with the [insert  
20 state] Association of School Nurses, shall develop guidelines for the training of school employees in  
21 the care needed for students with diabetes. The training guidelines shall include instruction in:

22                           (A) Recognition and treatment of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia;

23                           (B) Understanding the appropriate actions to take when blood glucose levels  
24 are outside of the target ranges indicated by a student's diabetes medical management plan;

1 (C) Understanding physician instructions concerning diabetes medication  
2 dosage, frequency, and the manner of administration;  
3 (D) Performance of finger-stick blood glucose checking, ketone checking, and  
4 recording the results;  
5 (E) Administration of insulin and glucagon, an injectable used to raise blood  
6 glucose levels immediately for severe hypoglycemia, and the recording of results;  
7 (F) Performance of basic insulin pump functions;  
8 (G) Recognizing complications that require emergency assistance; and  
9 (H) Recommended schedules and food intake for meals and snacks, the effect  
10 of physical activity upon blood glucose levels, and actions to be implemented in the case of schedule  
11 disruption.

12 (2) Each local board of education and state chartered special school shall ensure that  
13 the training outlined in paragraph (1) of this subsection is provided to a minimum of two school  
14 employees at each school attended by a student with diabetes.

15 (3) A school employee shall not be subject to any penalty or disciplinary action for  
16 refusing to serve as trained diabetes personnel.

17 (4) The training outlined in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be coordinated and  
18 provided by a school nurse or may be contracted out to be provided by another health care  
19 professional with expertise in diabetes. Such training shall take place prior to the commencement of  
20 each school year, or as needed when a student with diabetes is newly enrolled at a school or a  
21 student is newly diagnosed with diabetes. The school nurse or other contracted health care  
22 professional shall provide follow-up training and supervision.

23 (5) Each local school system and state chartered special school shall provide  
24 information in the recognition of diabetes related emergency situations to all bus drivers responsible  
25 for the transportation of a student with diabetes.

26 (c) The parent or guardian of each student with diabetes who seeks diabetes care while at  
27 school shall submit to the school a diabetes medical management plan which upon receipt shall be  
28 reviewed and implemented by the school.

29 (d)(1) In accordance with the request of a parent or guardian of a student with diabetes and  
30 the student's diabetes medical management plan, the school nurse or, in the absence of the school  
31 nurse, trained diabetes personnel shall perform functions including, but not limited to, responding to  
32 blood glucose levels that are outside of the student's target range; administering glucagon;  
33 administering insulin, or assisting a student in administering insulin through the insulin delivery  
34 system the student uses; providing oral diabetes medications; checking and recording blood glucose  
35 levels and ketone levels, or assisting a student with such checking and recording; and following  
36 instructions regarding meals, snacks, and physical activity.

37 (2) The school nurse or at least one trained diabetes personnel shall be on site at each  
38 school and available during regular school hours to provide care to each student with diabetes as  
39 identified pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section. For purposes of field trips, the parent or  
40 guardian, or designee of such parent or guardian, of a student with diabetes may accompany such  
41 student on a field trip.

42 (3) There shall be trained diabetes personnel at each school where a student with  
43 diabetes is enrolled, and a student's school choice shall in no way be restricted because the student  
44 has diabetes.

45 (4) The activities set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not constitute the  
46 practice of nursing and shall be exempted from all applicable statutory and regulatory provisions that  
47 restrict what activities can be delegated to or performed by a person who is not a licensed health care  
48 professional.

49 (e) Upon written request of a student's parent or guardian and if authorized by the student's

1 diabetes medical management plan, a student with diabetes shall be permitted to perform blood  
2 glucose checks, administer insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses, treat  
3 hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, and otherwise attend to the monitoring and treatment of his or her  
4 diabetes in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school related  
5 activity, and he or she shall be permitted to possess on his or her person at all times all necessary  
6 supplies and equipment to perform such monitoring and treatment functions.

7 (f) No physician, nurse, school employee, local school system, or state chartered special  
8 school shall be liable for civil damages or subject to disciplinary action under professional licensing  
9 regulations or school disciplinary policies as a result of the activities authorized or required by this  
10 Code section when such acts are committed as an ordinarily reasonably prudent physician, nurse,  
11 school employee, local school system, or state chartered special school would have acted under the  
12 same or similar circumstances.

13 (g) A private school which complies with the requirements of this Code section shall have  
14 the same limited liability for such school and its employees in the same manner as for public  
15 schools as provided for in subsection (f) of this Code section.”

16  
17 Section 4. [*Severability.*] Insert severability clause.

18  
19 Section 5. [*Repealer.*] Insert repealer clause.

20  
21 Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] Insert effective date.