



How to monitor your child's performance in school

By Kathryn Wissler, M. Ed.

If you are the parent of a child who has a serious or chronic medical condition, it is important for you to monitor your child's performance. Expectations at different schools and in different grades change and could impact your child's success. Also, be aware that medical conditions can change over time and it is important to keep your child's school aware of anything that may impact their school performance. Below is a checklist of things for parents to do to monitor their child's performance and advocate for necessary services.

When to conference with School Personnel:

- Prior to beginning any new school
- Changing from elementary to middle school
- Changing from middle school to high school
- Prior to graduation
- Prior to beginning college

What to say at conferences with School Personnel:

- Review your child's medical history
- Discuss the risk if any of learning problems
- Review current services and accommodations given to your child, i.e., special transportation, testing modifications, reduced homework, modified PE., preferential seating, etc.
- Discuss possible changes in services and accommodations and changes in expectations due to new location (especially when going from grade school to middle school)
- Identify a case manager at the school who will monitor your child's accommodations, services and progress.

When to ask for testing:

- When you note any significant change in your child's report cards (i.e., A's to B's, B's to C's, etc.) despite good effort on your child's part.
- When there are changes on standardized testing (i.e. going from 3's to 2's or 2's to 1's)
- When your child exhibits frustration or struggles with schoolwork

If your child is classified by the CSE, there are regularly scheduled meetings and testing done for your child. If your child is not classified, but receives special services under Section 504 or informally through the classroom teacher, there may not always be a regular schedule of testing or review of special needs. In these cases you must be proactive and request a school conference to discuss your child's program.

Please contact the CURE office if you are in need of a referral to Kathy Wissler and her free services to help navigate the education system and available support: (585)473-0180