

SECTION 504: STUDENTS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE



Children's
of Alabama®

What Is Section 504?

- A civil rights law that protects students with health conditions
- Helps them get the support services they need in school
- Students with sickle cell disease (SCD) may qualify for a 504 Plan

What Are Major Life Activities?

Your child may qualify for a 504 Plan if they have a disability—SCD—that makes one or more major life activities harder. These are examples of everyday things we all do:

- Breathing
- Walking & standing
- Learning
- Sleeping
- Thinking
- Talking & communicating
- Concentrating
- Using the bathroom
- Body functions (like the brain, immune system, or circulatory system).

What Can Be in a 504 Plan for SCD?

- Students must always have a water bottle with them
- Use the bathroom when needed
- Alternate PE activities if it's too hot or cold
- Excused for doctor visits and sick days
- Extra time to finish missed work
- Tutoring or hybrid schedule if needed
- Use of an elevator
- More time to change classes
- A place to rest if tired
- Adjusted schoolwork during illness

How Do I Ask for a 504 Plan?

- Find out the name of 504 coordinator (counselor and principal)
- Let them know in writing your child has SCD and may need 504 services
- Work together as a team—you, your child's doctor, and teachers.
- *If your child already has an IEP, a 504 plan is not needed.*

If you have any questions about Section 504 for your child, call our Sickle Cell Education Specialist at 205-638-9285.

