

Leukemia/ Lymphoma

An overview for school professionals

Leukemia is a cancer of the blood cells. Blood cells are made in the center of the bones, called the bone marrow. In leukemia, the bone marrow keeps making more and more blasts. They take up so much room that there is no space for normal cells.

Lymphoma is a form of cancer that affects the immune system - specifically, it is a cancer of immune cells called lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell. There are two broad types of lymphoma and many subtypes. The two broad types are Hodgkin's and Non-Hodgkin's.

What are some common symptoms of leukemia/lymphoma?

- Feeling tired or weak
- Fever or infection that does not go away
- Pale skin/ bruising/ enlarged lymph nodes
- Loss of appetite/ weight loss
- Shortness of breath

What type of support plan is appropriate for a student with leukemia/lymphoma?

Students with leukemia/lymphoma should have a 504 plan/IEP. The diagnosis of *leukemia/lymphoma* gives reasonable cause to bypass the SST process, which will allow you to provide immediate accommodations to the student. All teachers who provide instruction for your student should be made aware of these accommodations.

What accommodations are necessary for a student with leukemia/lymphoma?

ATTENDANCE: Students with leukemia/lymphoma frequently miss school. They may require hospitalizations from time to time, sometimes for several weeks.

- full-time and/or intermittent hospital homebound services
- suspension of attendance requirements for absences due to medical appointments and illness, including allowances for student to participate in extra-curricular programs and events without penalty due to absences.
- partial-day attendance, as necessary

ASSIGNMENTS: It is important for teacher and parents to ensure that student receive assignments in a timely manner so student does not get further behind. It may also take the student with leukemia/lymphoma longer to complete assignments due to fatigue, pain, and/or frequent trips to the restroom.

- a system for providing advance assignments to the parent or student for absences due to planned medical appointments
- a system for providing make-up assignments in a timely manner when patient is absent due to illness or hospitalization
- modified assignments: Shorten assignments to emphasize mastery and to limit repetition.
- extra time to make up missed assignments

The list of accommodations above is not meant to be exhaustive; each student's unique needs will dictate the appropriate accommodations to be listed in his/her 504 plan.