

Fact Sheet

Students with Physical or Cognitive Disabilities

From CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000

About SHPPS

SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Results from SHPPS 2000 are published in the *Journal of School Health*, Volume 71, Number 7, September 2001.

Health Education

- 38.7% of required health education courses contained students with permanent physical or cognitive disabilities.
 - 65.6% of these courses had a teacher who coordinated activities for these students with a special education teacher.
 - 46.0% of these courses had another teacher or aide who assisted the students with disabilities.
 - 28.8% of these courses had a teacher who assigned note takers or readers to assist these students with class work.
 - 82.0% had a teacher who simplified instructional content or varied the amount of difficulty of material taught.
 - 80.7% had a teacher who used more skill modeling, practice, or repetition for these students.
 - 82.1% had a teacher who used preferential seating for these students.
- 42.7% of all required health education courses had a teacher who received staff development on teaching students with permanent physical or cognitive disabilities during the two years preceding the study.

School Policy and Environment

- 52.0% of states, 96.3% of districts, and 93.5% of schools have adopted policies prohibiting harassment of students by other students. Among these, 65.2% of states, 85.9% of districts, and 76.1% of schools have policies specifically prohibiting harassment based on physical or cognitive disability.

Health Services

- 32.6% of states and 60.8% of districts require districts or schools to provide case management for students with chronic health conditions when needed; 68.0% of schools provide this service when needed.
- Medically fragile students, defined as those who are dependent on nursing services or special technologies to enhance or sustain their lives, can be found in 35.8% of schools. Among these schools:
 - 49.5% provide catheterizations to these students when needed.
 - 42.2% provide stoma care.
 - 41.0% provide tube feedings.
 - 35.5% provide suctioning.
 - 34.7% provide respirator care.
 - 34.4% provide tracheostomy care.

Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and Individualized Health Plans (IHPs)

- 33.3% of states and 63.9% of districts require school nurses to participate in the development of IEPs when indicated; 62.8% of states and 80.3% of districts require school mental health and social services staff to participate.
- 27.4% of states and 47.5% of districts require school nurses to participate in the development of IHPs; 25.0% of states and 38.5% of districts require school mental health or social services staff to participate.
- School nurses participate in the development of IEPs when indicated in 75.3% of schools and school mental health and social services staff participate in 87.5% of schools.
- School nurses participate in the development of IHPs when indicated in 78.4% of schools and school mental health and social services staff participate in 45.6% of schools.

For additional information on SHPPS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-33, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, telephone 888-231-6405, <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>.