

Appendix C: Documenting a Student's Toilet Learning Plan

Formally documenting your student's toileting plan and goals will clarify your process, and create accountability for your team members. There are many ways to document a toilet learning plan.

Individualized Health Plan

An Individualized Health Plan (IHP) is a document executed by a school nurse for the ongoing support of students with more complex health care needs. The IHP “is a necessary tool for delineating the nursing plan of care to foster academic success and support optimal attendance” (NASN 2020). It can also support carryover in the case of a substitute nurse, school transfer, or transition from year to year. The development of an IHP for students with toileting and continence concerns is recommended by the National Association for School Nurses and the American School Health Association, as well as the Vermont State School Nurse Consultant. The development of an IHP is recommended even when a toileting plan is also documented in an IEP or 504 plan, because an IHP documents the health-related needs of a student, where another plan will document the educational needs.

Individualized Education Plan

An individualized education plan (IEP) is a document that outlines a student's educational goals and the instructional supports and services a student requires to meet those goals. An IEP is the record of a student's participation in special education. Continence and toileting can be included in a student's IEP as a consideration in goals, accommodations and modifications, and services. If a child is covered by a preschool age IEP, toileting and continence concerns can make a student eligible for special education, but in elementary school and beyond, they cannot. (See appendices for Accommodations and Toileting and Continence Goals).

Educational Support Team

An educational support team (EST), a component of the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), offers a student additional support beyond the universally offered general education curriculum and instruction. Areas of need can include continence and toileting, and this can be a venue to create and document a toilet-teaching plan if a student does not have an IEP in place.

504 Plan

A 504 Plan (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), is a set of accommodations for students who have medical diagnoses, but does not entitle a student to special instructional practices, as would be provided by an IEP or EST Plan. A 504 plan is the appropriate level of support for a student whose continence needs are present and ongoing, requiring support and accommodations for maintenance. **Note:** functional incontinence, encopresis, and constipation are all medical diagnoses that would make a student eligible for a 504 Plan, regardless of *why* the child has that diagnosis.