

# Managing Roadblocks for Your Child's Education

Pediatric cancer diagnosis and treatment can impact various aspects of your child's education. Awareness of potential barriers to academic progress and available school supports can improve your ability to collaborate with school staff and advocate for your child in an academic setting.

## Potential Barriers to Academic Progress:

- Frequent or extended school absences
- Lack of consistent tutoring support
- Fatigue
- Pre-existing difficulties with learning
- Ongoing cognitive or learning difficulties related to certain treatments

Available School Supports: US public schools are obligated by law to provide free and appropriate education to all children.

- **Informal Supports:** Basic supports accessible to all students who may be experiencing social, educational, or emotional difficulties in the academic setting.
  - Small group instruction in the classroom, Title One, Response to Intervention, Lunch bunch/guidance groups, 1:1 counseling, Enrichment programs (study groups, homework club, summer programs).
- **Formalized Support Plans:** Documented accommodations to assist certain students with academic progress. Accommodations can include modification in teaching strategy, homework, testing, environment, and access to ancillary services.
  - Section 504 Plan:
    - Available to all children with a medical diagnosis that "substantially limits one or more life activities."
  - Individualized Health Care Plan (IHP):
    - Available to children with special health care needs to ensure they receive necessary health services during the school day.
  - Individualized Education Program (IEP):
    - Available to children identified through school-based evaluation for academic-specific supports, occupational, physical, and/or speech language services.