

Recognition and Care of School Aged Children with Diabetes

- Whereas: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases in school aged children, affecting 151,000 young people in the United States or about 1 in every 400-500 people under 20; and
- Whereas: The American Diabetes Association states that in 2002 Diabetes was the 5th deadliest disease in the Unites States; and
- Whereas: The Center for Disease Control states that each year more than 13,000 youths are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes; and
- Whereas: A growing number of children and adolescents are developing type 2 diabetes - a form of diabetes that is generally diagnosed among adults; and
- Whereas: Many schools do not have a full time nurse or licensed health care professional available on site to handle medical emergencies and nursing duties are often times performed by other school personnel; therefore, be it
- Resolved: That Alaska PTA believes all school personnel should receive general training on diabetes; and be it further
- Resolved: That at least two staff members per school obtain intensive training on insulin administration, diabetic emergency procedures, and in identification and treatment for symptoms of hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia.

Approved by Alaska PTA 2005

Summary: Diabetes is one of the most chronic diseases in school-aged children, and takes the life of one American every three minutes. Currently only six states have laws in place for the care of diabetic children in schools, and there is no uniform national standard for the maximum number of students under the care of a school nurse. By providing training for at least two school staff employees, we can be assured those children with diabetes are being cared for at all times, even in schools without a school nurse present. As the occurrence of diabetes in our youth continues to rise we too must rise to meet their needs.