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## Guidance for a School Cell Phone Policy with Appropriate Diabetes Accommodation Exceptions

When drafting policies on cell phone restrictions in the school setting, here are some recommendations to keep students with diabetes safe:

- 1) **Consider and include references to legal requirements to accommodate and serve students with disabilities.** This includes the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and relevant state law.
- 2) **Define “electronic communication device” broadly** so that it includes access to smart watches, tablets, and smart phones.
- 3) **Ensure appropriate accommodations for students with medical or disability-related needs, such as diabetes.** The policy should include exceptions to any device limitations where electronic communication device use is contained in an Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.
- 4) **Include an example of a student with diabetes to explain these exceptions.** For example: “If a student with a chronic medical condition (e.g., diabetes) uses a personal cell phone application and/or device to manage their condition, they should have access to that device during the school day.”
- 5) **Ensure the policy to accommodate students with a disability- or medical-related accommodation need applies to all school-related activities.** If the cell phone restriction policy is applicable to field trips and extracurricular activities, the same exceptions based on individual accommodation needs should apply for those activities.
- 6) **Ensure appropriate training of school staff on the policy and applicable exceptions.** Staff must be aware of when the use of electronic communication devices is permitted, including as a disability- or medical-related accommodation.