



Quick Tip Sheet for Supporting Students with Cancer

General Overview:

Students with cancer can have various struggles in school, in part due to their disease, but mostly due to treatment side effects. Not all students undergoing cancer treatment will have all of these side effects, and some side effects may wax and wane. It is important to consider the various side effects when planning accommodations, realizing that students with cancer may not need all of them. Students may also need different accommodations at different times, because side effects can change over the course of treatment for some students. It is also important to take into account how much a student wants to be singled out. Not all students want extra attention placed on them, so some accommodations should only be offered if it is something the student is comfortable with.

Side Effects:

- Fatigue
- Weakened Immune System
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Pain
- Hair Loss
- Emotional Lability

Accommodations:

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| • Home instruction for lost time | • Close monitoring of fevers | • Elevator use |
| • Social visits | • Notify family of high rates of infection or cases of highly communicable illnesses | • Leave early from class to avoid congestion in hallways |
| • Shortened school days | | • Access to water bottle |
| • Partial attendance (e.g., MWF) | • Wipe down high-touch areas in classroom | • Snacks as needed |
| • Shortened assignments | • Move students away from others who show symptoms of illness | • Liberal bathroom privileges |
| • Opportunities to talk with counselor or other staff when needed | | • Frequent or scheduled rest breaks |
| • Preferential seating | | |