

A Full Life Without Limits January 2019

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Prader-Willi California
Foundation is a proud
affiliate of PWSA (USA)

Our Mission

*Individuals with PWS
should have the
opportunity to pursue
their hopes and dreams
to the full extent of their
talents and capabilities.
The success of people
with PWS depends
greatly upon the
knowledge and support
of the community
around them. PWCF
provides individuals
with PWS, their
families, and
professionals with a
state network of
information, advocacy
and support services.*

Dear Parent or Care Provider:

This email contains information about a new tool developed by the Prader-Willi California Foundation to help you advocate for your child in the school setting and obtain supports and services from your Regional Center.

As you know, PWS is a rare medical disorder. This means that very few, if any, of your child's school staff will know anything about PWS, how PWS can impact your child in the school setting, and how to help your child be more successful in the school environment.

When you ask the school to provide your child with specific supports or services you will need to show or prove that what you are asking for is necessary in order for your child to benefit from their educational environment and therefore receive the free appropriate public education (FAPE). Most often, schools regard written documentation received from a physician as the most appropriate form of "proof."

The **Physician's Note Symptom and Treatment Checklist** is a new tool developed by PWCF that can help you meet your school district's documentation requirements, particularly in preparation of your Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting. The Physician's Note is to be completed by you and one of your child's physicians, most likely your child's endocrinologist but it can be completed by any physician. It can be used to document a host of ways the school can support your child in the school setting including:

- If your child is distracted by food, shows food-seeking behavior, or is gaining weight, have your physician check the Hyperphagia box and write the specific supervisory support that is necessary to keep your child safe throughout the entire school day while your child is on the school campus.
- If your child needs help to stay on task or transition from one activity to the next, have your physician check the Attentional Deficits box and/or the Anxiety box and note the specific supervisory supports your child needs in order to participate in his or her educational curriculum.
- If your child's low muscle tone or deficits in motor planning skills makes it unsafe for him or her to safely walk across the school campus, or climb stairs, or safely access the playground equipment, have your physician check the Hypotonia and Sensory Motor Integration Problems boxes and note that physical therapy and/or occupational therapy services are necessary for them to be able to participate in and benefit from their educational environment.

It may be helpful to share the Physician's Note at your child's next Regional Center Individual and Family Support Plan and include it as part of the IFSP.

This new tool is posted on PWCF website under the tab [Parents|School Age Years](https://pwcf.org/for-parents/school-age-years/) (<https://pwcf.org/for-parents/school-age-years/>). PWCF hopes this new tool will help you receive the educational supports and services your child needs to thrive in his or her educational environment. Please contact us if you have any questions, if you need additional support, or if you'd like to request a PWS school training.

With warmest regards,

Emily Dame, M.Ed.
Executive Director

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