



Parent/Student Handbook 2021-2022

**Policies & Procedures
For Effective Student Behavior**

ABLE Academy Parent/Student Handbook

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ABLE Academy Parent/Student Handbook

Welcome Parents and Guardians,

The staff at ABLE Academy would like to take this opportunity to welcome your family to the 2021-2022 school year. The Parent/Student Handbook will familiarize you with ABLE Academy and outline what you can expect from our school. It will answer some questions you may have about programs and policies. This handbook is not meant to take the place of personal communication between your family and ABLE Academy.

Please feel free to contact ABLE Academy, if you have questions regarding programs or procedures. Please take time to acquaint yourself with each section. We hope you find the information to be helpful and we welcome any feedback and questions.

Thank you,

ABLE Academy Administration & Staff

School Information

School Days/Hours

Regular School Year: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

ESY Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Contact Information:

Address: 3S140 Barkley Avenue
Warrenville, IL 60555

Main Office: (630) 425-3183

ABLE Cell: (630) 398-9673

Fax: (630) 429-9428

Website: www.ableac.org

ABLE Academy Program Information

ABLE Academy's Mission

ABLE Academy is committed to ensuring all students reach their optimal level of independence by using evidence-based behavior analytic interventions.

ABLE Academy's Vision

- ABLE Academy encourages students to Achieve Beyond Limits and Expectations.
- ABLE Academy's foundation is rooted in utilizing empirically-based Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) methodologies to support all students in achieving optimal levels of independence.
- ABLE Academy recognizes that the accomplishments of the students impact the family and community and strive for each student to reach their full potential.

Program Components

The Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will drive each student's goals. Data collection and analysis are key components to ABLE Academy's high quality education. Data collection and analysis occurs on a routine basis to ensure progress toward goals is being achieved. Instruction is delivered both individually and in small group settings from the teacher and supported by the paraprofessionals. There are four primary components to ABLE Academy's programming: functional academics, behavior, communication and life skills. Therapy services may include:

- **Behavioral Therapy:** Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the foundation of ABLE Academy's program and is utilized within the classroom and individual sessions.
- **Speech/Language Therapy:** Professional services are provided by licensed Speech Language Pathologists to increase skills in the area(s) of receptive, expressive and pragmatic communication.
- **Occupational Therapy:** Professional services are provided by licensed Occupational Therapists to increase skills in the area(s) of fine motor skills and sensory integration in order to maximize independence across all environments.
- **Physical Therapy:** Professional services are provided by a licensed Physical Therapist to increase skills in the area(s) of gross motor skills, balance and coordination in order to increase a student's strength, coordination and stamina to allow for access to curriculum and to maximize independence across all environments. (provided by home district if IEP indicates)
- **Social Work or Counseling:** Professional services are provided by a licensed Social Worker or Counselor to increase social skills and coping strategies.

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- **Paraprofessionals:** Highly trained paraprofessionals are provided to students as necessary based upon each student's need. Paraprofessionals work closely with the BCBA to ensure that the student's behavior intervention plan is consistently implemented.

Curriculum

Academic Curriculum Reading and Language Arts ABLE Academy utilizes a wide variety of curricular materials to meet each student's individualized needs and IEP goals. Research-based direct instruction (DI) which focuses on increasing a student's comprehension and explicit instruction in improving sight words. The teachers access a variety of resources (i.e. - News2You, SRA Language for Reading, Unique Curriculum) which are all aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Since reading comprehension and one's ability to understand language go hand in hand, ABLE Academy's Speech Language Pathologist(s) works closely with the classroom teacher and BCBA to develop an individualized program for each student targeting foundational skills.

Mathematics Research-based direct instruction (DI) is also at the heart of ABLE Academy's Math curriculum including Connecting Math. All curricula are aligned with the Common Core standards and include, but are not limited to, the following resources: Glencoe, Singapore Math, Saxton Math, and Life of Fred. Each student's teacher works closely with the BCBA to develop lessons that target both traditional academic as well as functional math skills such as money and time. Science and Social Studies Both science and social studies are taught in small group settings, ensuring the individual needs of the students are met and goals targeted. A variety of curricula are utilized that are aligned with Common Core Standards including, but not limited to Next Generation Science Standards, A-Z Science, News 2 You, and My Pals Are Here. Science lessons are often taught in an experiential manner. Social studies instruction is closely aligned to assisting students in developing his/her functional daily living skills.

Technology Students at ABLE have access to classroom technology. This includes Chromebooks, iPads installed with various apps and programs that correlate with learning standards and individual goals, computers, podcasts, and video. Technology is further outlined in classroom lesson plans, which are aligned to standards, to indicate when technology will be utilized to support instruction.

Daily Living Skills Students at ABLE have access to classroom technology. This includes Chromebooks, iPads installed with various apps and programs that correlate with learning standards and individual goals, computers, podcasts, and video. Technology is further outlined in classroom lesson plans, which are aligned to standards, to indicate when technology will be utilized to support instruction.

Physical Education Physical fitness and education are important for all students at ABLE. Physical Education will be conducted daily. Skills taught include, but are not limited to: physical fitness, team building, health promotion, human body systems as well as communication and decision-making.

Middle School Education (6-8) Our elementary education program has a 2:1 staff to student ratio in order to provide intensive training in the area(s) of behavior support, functional communication, self-care, and academics. ABLE Academy's elementary education program has its foundation rooted in ABA, with the BCBA working very closely with the classroom teacher,

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Paraprofessionals, and related services providers to coordinate both skill acquisition and behavior reduction plans. Each student receives individualized instruction as specified within his/her IEP, whose goals are developed from assessment and current level of performance. Modified grading systems will be utilized as appropriate, progress monitoring will occur on a weekly basis, and progress on goals will be reported quarterly to families and referring school districts.

Secondary Education (9-12) Our secondary education program focuses on promoting student independence in all areas to the greatest extent possible. The level of staff support needed is assessed and determined for each skill area and faded as appropriate. With the Essential for Living curriculum as the cornerstone of our secondary education program, ABLE Academy's programming will heavily focus on behavior support, functional communication, and independent living skills. Essential for Living includes seven skill domains and one domain on problem behavior. These skills are potentially connected to deficits that would prevent students from accessing the learning environment in a lesser restrictive model (making transitions, taking turns, waiting, making requests, etc). It is based on an extensive body of research literature from special education, along with the concepts, principles, and empirically-validated procedures from Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and from B. F. Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior. The assessment and subsequent areas of skill mastery for students will help guide differentiated instruction and move students toward a more traditional model of education. These skills will be incorporated into academics and coursework in addition to content-area instruction to increase classroom success. Modified grading systems will be utilized as appropriate, progress monitoring will occur on a weekly basis, and progress on goals will be reported quarterly to families and referring school districts.

Transition (18-21 years of age) Our transition program will also focus on promoting independence with all students to the extent possible and as with our secondary education program, the Essential for Living curriculum will be utilized to individualize programming for our students. Vocational training and independent living skills are the top priorities within our transition program. As with all ABLE Academy's programming, our transition services will heavily focus on behavior support, functional communication, life skills, vocational training and job coaching, opportunities for working on-site, as well as community outings. The level of staff support needed is monitored through daily data collection and systematically faded based upon monthly analysis of support necessary with a focus on increasing independence and tolerance to tasks.

*ABLE Academy understands that there are age range requirements of not more than a 4-year span for elementary grades and not more than a 6-year span for secondary grades. No classroom will extend beyond the age range requirements without an approved deviation and, if additional classroom space needs to be secured, ABLE will do so prior to accepting referrals beyond the age range requirements.

Responsibilities and Expectations

Administration/Staff Responsibilities

The ABLE Academy administration/staff will strive to provide effective services and programming to all the students. The staff will be responsible for:

- Respect all students and treat each student with dignity.

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- Maintain a positive school environment for all students.
- Provide a learning environment where each student reaches their full potential.
- Enforce all rules and responsibilities.
- Initiate communication with parents on student progress and collaborate on student's programming.
- Protect students and staff from harm.
- Respect the privacy of each student when providing personal, medical or mental health care

Abused & Neglected Child Reporting

Any employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child shall immediately make a report to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 800-25-ABUSE and follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office. Any employee who believes a student is in immediate danger or harm, shall first call 911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Executive Director that a report has been made. Any employee who discovers child pornography on electronic equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement. The ABLE Executive Director shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

The ABLE Academy staff practices a team approach with parents/guardians. We expect parents/guardians to read the Parent/Student Handbook and sign the form stating they have read the handbook. Parents are responsible for:

- Make sure your student attends school daily unless they are absent due to an illness or family emergency beyond your control.
- Report any tardiness or absence to the school in a timely manner.
- Assist your student in being neat, clean, respectful and courteous.
- Assist your student in achieving individualized goals.
- Check the student's backpack daily and read and respond to communication notes.
- Attend conferences/meetings throughout the school year.
- Follow the sick/illness policy and keep your student home when sick.

Student Responsibilities

Your student has the right to:

- Learn in a safe and healthy environment.
- Be treated with dignity and respect.
- Be allowed to express their viewpoints in an appropriate manner.

Your student is responsible for:

- Making an effort to be an effective learner.
- Attend class and be on time.
- Come prepared with all supplies and materials.
- Follow directions and adhere to standards of good conduct.

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Attendance Procedures

Regular school attendance is necessary in order to take full advantage of the educational opportunities at ABLE Academy. Students are expected to be in attendance every day when school is in session. It is pertinent that you contact ABLE Academy to report your student's absence(s) and follow the reporting absence guidelines. If we do not hear from the responsible party, school personnel will contact the listed parent or guardian via phone to inquire about your student's status. If your student is unable to attend school, please report the absence by following the guidelines listed below.

Reporting Student Absence

1. A student's absence needs to be reported to the school by a parent/guardian before 8:30 a.m. by either; emailing your student's classroom teacher or calling the direct line at (630) 425-3183.
2. Communicate the reason for the absence, name of student and your name and telephone number.
3. If applicable, contact the bus company about your student's absence.
4. Notify school immediately if your student is hospitalized for any reason.

Student Absence

School attendance is mandated by the State of Illinois. A truant is defined as a student who is absent without valid cause. Similarly, a chronic truant is defined as one who is absent without valid cause (medical documentation) for 10% or more of the 180 school attendance days. Appropriate disciplinary consequences may be given should an administrator deem a student as a chronic truant. Also, the authorities, such as the home school district and the county truancy officer, will be notified.

Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

The parent/guardian must contact the school when your student will be arriving after 9:00 a.m. or if he/she is leaving before 3:00 p.m. The students must be signed in or out by the parent/guardian when arriving after 9:00 a.m. or leaving prior to 3:00 p.m. Please contact your bus company to inform them that your student will be dropped off at school or picked up early. It is your responsibility to make sure the bus company is aware of your student's late arrival or early dismissal. If your student requires a bus safety harness, make sure you bring it to school or it is in your student's backpack. If a student usually travels with a harness, but the harness has been left at home, the parents will be expected to pick up the student at the end of the school day.

School Cancellation/Emergency Closings

ABLE Academy recognizes that there will be days when school will not be able to be in session due to inclement weather conditions. The school will be open every day that it is safe for students to be transported to and from school. ABLE Academy personnel will make school cancellation decisions due to inclement weather after reviewing local news and media for school closures in the area. ABLE Academy personnel will communicate via email and phone calls notifying families of any school closures.

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Student Release

Please notify the classroom teacher in advance, if someone that is not currently listed on the Authorization To Release Student to Person Other Than Parent Form, will be picking up your student. ABLE staff are unable to release your student to anyone not listed on this form without prior written notification from the parent or guardian. Please contact ABLE Academy if you need to update or make changes to your student's file and forms as soon as possible.

Behavior Intervention and Crisis Procedures

Behavior Management

ABLE Academy and its staff shall develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions with the students. When effective these behavioral interventions promote and strengthen desirable behaviors, and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. If required and necessary, a student will have an intervention plan in his/her IEP that identifies which behaviors each student needs to address and what replacement behavior and/or strategy will help support them. In that case, data is taken daily to track frequency and intensity of target behaviors, so that adjustments can be made and/or progress measured by monthly charting of the data.

List of Positive Behavior Supports include but are not limited to:

1. Positive Reinforcement
2. Differential Reinforcement Procedures
3. Noncontingent Reinforcement
4. Functional Communication Training
5. Reward Based Systems/Token Economies
6. Antecedent/Consequence manipulations
7. Environmental Manipulations
8. Functional Behavior Assessment
9. Replacement Behavior Training
10. Behavior Contracts
11. Errorless Teaching Procedures
12. Self Management Programs
13. Stimulus/Demand Fading

List of Approved Interventions

1. Response Blocking
2. Redirection
3. Overcorrection

More Restrictive Interventions (only as a last resort)

1. Time out
2. Physical Restraint (Staff are trained in QBS Safety-Care)

Aversive techniques are prohibited at ABLE Academy. Non-restrictive interventions are attempted first, as they are of low risk, with the purpose of teaching the student a new skill that

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will reduce the inappropriate behavior and replace it with appropriate behavior. Restrictive interventions are those that respond to behaviors which pose a risk of harm to the student, staff or other students and are used only if less restrictive interventions have been attempted or failed. Restrictive interventions will be a collaboration between school staff and the parents/guardians as part of the IEP process.

Restraint

ABLE Academy is committed to making the safety of its students and staff our number one priority. All staff are trained by a certified instructor in QBS Safety-Care.

The goal of QBS Safety-Care is the care, welfare, safety and security of all people involved in a crisis situation. Understanding nonverbal behavior, such as nonverbal communication, personal space, and body posture are some of the key elements in QBS Safety-Care. Communication is important when attempting to diffuse a situation, as staff should give directives and/or options to students in a way that is consistent with the statements ‘it is not what you say, but how you say it’.

By recognizing precipitating factors, staff can understand the underlying causes of escalating behaviors and respond in a more professional manner. Staff will attempt to de-escalate the situation based on possible antecedents and prior experiences with student(s) in similar situations.

Staff will learn personal safety techniques that can reduce the risk of injuries if a student tries to hit, kick, grab, bite, choke, etc. Authorized techniques are implemented when other methods are exhausted and the situation requires physical intervention. This is always a last resort and involves the use of non-harmful control and restraint positions to safely control an individual until he/she can regain control of his/her behavior.

After a restraint has occurred, staff will complete an incident report and the parent is notified the same day. A copy of the incident report will be filed in the student’s file and sent to the student’s school district.

Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior Definition

“Bullying” means any severe or pervasive (repeated over time) physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward your student, that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the following effects:

1. Placing your student in reasonable fear of harm to your student’s person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on your student’s physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with your student’s academic performance; or;
4. Substantially interfering with your student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

“Cyberbullying” means using information and communication technologies to bully. This definition includes cyberbullying by means of technology that is not owned, leased, or used by ABLE Academy when an administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this

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means has occurred. This policy does not require ABLE Academy, its administration or staff to monitor any non-school related activity function or program.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation, one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Bullying behaviors may also qualify as other inappropriate behaviors. When deciding whether inappropriate behavior constitutes bullying, administrators should consider a student's intent, the frequency or recurrence of the inappropriate behavior, and whether there are power imbalances between the students involved. While bullying is often characterized by repeated acts, sometimes a single incident constitutes bullying depending on the student's intent and power imbalances.

Response to Physical or Emotional Threats or Actions

Students and Staff are expected to consistently demonstrate respect for others. ABLE Academy intends to provide a safe, nurturing, comfortable environment for all students and staff members. If a situation arises in which a student becomes threatening, is verbally cruel, sexually harassing and/or becomes physically aggressive in any way the following options are available:

1. Behavior Intervention Plan will be drafted or amended and consistently implemented;
2. Counseling for others involved in the situation;
3. Removal from the peer group (in or out of school suspension);
4. Parents notified and asked to come to the school to pick up student;
5. Police notified (battery, aggravated battery, damages to property, etc.);
6. Assessment for psychiatric treatment and/or hospitalization.

Making a Complaint

Students and parents are encouraged to report incidences of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment or any other prohibited conduct to the ABLE Executive Director. A student may choose to report to a person of the same gender. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

Weapons Prohibition

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be suspended and may be asked to leave ABLE Academy:

1. A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961.
2. A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look-a-likes" of any firearm as defined above.

Additional action may be taken by the student's home school district.

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Transportation Information

Bus Transportation

Student transportation is set up by your student's school district. Parents must inform ABLE Academy staff, with 24 hours prior notice, if someone other than yourself or the bus will be transporting your student. ABLE Academy staff cannot transport your student in their personal vehicle under any circumstances. If there are any problems with your student's transportation, contact your School District Representative and the ABLE Executive Director.

Community Outing/Field Trip Transportation

School staff plan community outings and field trips in accordance with educational goals. Permission slips for each trip will be sent home at least three days in advance.

Parent Communication

Daily Communication

A summary of your student's day will be sent home to notify you of important information, which may include information on academics, behavior, therapy sessions and any other important information your student's teacher would like to share with you. ABLE is communicating each day's information on a weekly sheet. This weekly sheet can also be used as a means for parents/guardians to communicate important information about his/her student to the school team. Parents are asked to send back to school each Mon-Thursday. On Friday, Parents are to retain the copy for their records.

Meetings

Annual IEP meetings will be scheduled by the appropriate school personnel and your home school district. The school will be contacting the parents/guardians about meeting dates and times.

Once the meeting has been scheduled, parent/guardian will receive written notification of the scheduled meeting. We strongly encourage parents to attend these annual review meetings, as your input on the proposed goals is very important in the education process. We encourage parents/guardians to contact their student's teacher or school personnel and discuss issues, concerns or progress related to their student.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Progress Reports/Report Cards are issued at the end of each quarter. IEP goal progress reports will also be provided. Any concerns related to a student's progress should be brought to the Executive Director's attention for follow-up.

Phone Calls

Parents/guardians may contact ABLE staff by calling the main number between 8:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on school days or by emailing staff members at any time. We will make an effort to return emails and phone calls within 24 hours. In the event of an emergency, please call the ABLE Academy main phone number (630) 425-3183.

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Staff Personal Information

ABLE Academy staff members are not allowed to share personal information such as cell or home phone numbers, email addresses or home addresses with families. Staff members are not permitted to provide personal services such as babysitting or home therapy unless prior written authorization has been granted from the ABLE Executive Director.

Dress Code Guidelines

Dress Code

Students are expected to come to school clean and appropriately dressed for their age group. Student appearance that is disruptive to the educational environment will be handled on an individual basis. ABLE Academy staff and parents will work together to encourage students to take responsibility for their appearance and to work within the following dress code guidelines.

- Dresses and skirts should be modest length and necklines.
- No short skirts or shorts- the length must be below the longest fingertip.
- No tight or low cut garments.
- No midriff or undergarment exposure.
- No transparent or see through clothing.
- Shirts must cover the entire torso.
- Shirts and bottoms must meet even when the student is seated.
- No hanging straps, buckles or chains on the clothing.
- No clothing items displaying alcohol/drug related advertising; obscene or suggestive slogans; signs/colors/manner of wearing that could be gang related.
- No hats unless necessary as part of a student's behavior plan.
- No pajamas unless a noted pajama day.
- No flip flops, slippers, beach or shower shoes.
- No spaghetti straps or strapless tops- straps must be at least 1-2" thick.

Each family is asked to provide a complete set of spare clothing to be kept at school.

Money and Personal Items

Mobile Phones/Electronic Devices

Students are required to have prior permission before bringing mobile phones or electronic devices to school. Students are encouraged to leave these items at home and ABLE Academy is not held liable for any items that are lost or damaged during school hours and bus transportation.

Student Personal Items

The only time students should bring toys, games or sports equipment to school is when their school team instructs them to do so. The student will assume responsibility for any items brought to school. Parents and guardians are discouraged from allowing students to bring any money to school that is not needed for a specific purpose. If there is a planned field trip, parents or guardians will receive advance written notification from the classroom teacher.

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*Health and Medication Policies

*All health and medication policies are subject to change via guidance issued by IDPH/ISBE as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic.

It is our goal to follow healthy guidelines during the school year and teach healthy habits to students. It is important to indicate all pertinent health problems/concerns when completing the required Student Health Information forms. If your student has a special health problem such as: chronic asthma, food allergies, bee sting allergies, etc. please notify the school. We encourage all families to practice healthy habits and it is important to follow the specific school guidelines related to medication, allergies and specific health concerns.

Healthy Practices

Staff and students will wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water at the following times:

- After using the restroom;
- Before and after eating and food preparations;
- Upon returning from outdoor activities, field trips or outings;
- After wiping noses;
- After handling animals.

Please report any chronic illness such as bronchitis, asthma and/or allergies to the school staff and remember to communicate any changes. A health care provider must treat any rash or virus and a release from the health care provider must be provided for your student to return to school. All students that are absent for three (3) days or more may require a health care provider's note to return to school. Please report any and all medications and changes to medications to the school.

ABLE Academy reserves the right to call you to pick up your students when:

1. Your student has experienced more than two (2) episodes of diarrhea in one school day.
2. Your student has vomited for any reason other than indicated in his or her behavior plan.
3. Your student has a fever over 100 degrees.
4. Your student has three (3) or more of the following symptoms:
 - Chest cough;
 - Persistent green runny nose;
 - Signs of bodily discomfort;
 - Any rash that looks suspicious and/or is contagious;
 - Any eye that looks pink in nature;
 - Any persistent, uncontrollable, inconsolable cry/tantrum that is not indicated on the Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

Illness Policy

Your student must remain home until symptom free for 24 hours or more.

1. If he/she has vomited.
2. If he/she has experienced diarrhea.

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3. If he/she has a fever over 100 degrees.
4. If he/she has a persistent phlegm cough.
5. If he/she has a green runny nose.
6. If he/she has any rash that has not been treated by a health care provider.
7. If he/she has any sign of the flu or bodily discomfort.
8. If he/she has pinkeye or conjunctivitis.
9. If he/she has been knowingly exposed to the chickenpox virus or lice in the past 3-4 days.
10. If he/she has any airborne illness.

Your student must be picked up within 60 minutes from the time of the phone call. ABLE will attempt to contact parents/guardians first and will continue down the emergency list until someone is available to pick-up your student. In order to maintain a healthy school environment, please follow the guidelines listed in the illness policy. Please note that given the needs of the students, staff is often required to be in close physical contact with a student. **We ask that parents/guardians adhere to the illness policy to ensure that ABLE staff and students remain healthy.**

Contagious Diseases/Illnesses

We ask parents/guardians to notify the school office as soon as possible if the student develops a contagious illness. Without a health care provider's certificate, the following rules established by the Illinois Department of Public Health will be observed for the student's admission to school. The following are considered contagious diseases:

1. Chicken Pox.
2. Conjunctivitis - the student is excluded from school until antibiotic (Pink Eye) treatment has been maintained for at least 24 hours.
3. Impetigo - the student may be in school if treated by physician but must remain at home for the first 24 hours of using the prescribed ointments. The student must have a note from the physician.
4. Scarlet Fever - the student may return to school after being on medication for 24 hours.
5. Strep Throat - the student may return to school after being on medication for 24 hours.

Care of Students with Diabetes

If your student has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted. Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

1. Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their student.
2. Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
3. Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
4. Grant consent for and authorize designated School representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.

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Medical Cannabis Administration by Designated Caregiver Policy

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act allows a parent/guardian of a minor to register with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as a designated caregiver to administer medical cannabis to their student. A designated caregiver may also be another individual other than the student's parent/guardian. Pursuant to Section 22-33 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/22-33), a student who is a registered qualifying patient may have his/her parent, guardian or other IDPH registered designated caregiver (who must be at least 21 years old) administer a medical cannabis infused product to the student on the premises of the school.

Medication Administration

It shall be the policy of ABLE Academy that the administration of medication or supervision of self-medication to students during regular school hours will be discouraged unless necessary to maintain the student in school, or in the event of an emergency. The objective of any medication program is to promote self-responsibility.

The Executive Director will facilitate this process by providing information to the parents/guardians and students on the process to be followed for the administration of medication during school hours. ABLE Academy will insure and indemnify personnel designated to administer or supervise the self-administration of medication. We will ensure training has been provided by a nurse or physician for any individuals supervising or administering medication.

School personnel will not diagnose or treat illnesses. This does not prohibit any school employee from administering emergency assistance to a student. Teachers or other employees can not be required to administer medication or supervise self-medication although they may volunteer to do so.

No school personnel shall administer to any student, nor shall any student possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication, unless the Authorization and Permission for Administration of Medication form has been filed with the school. This form shall be completed by the student's parent or guardian and licensed prescriber and shall be on file at the school prior to the dispensing of any medication to a student. The Authorization and Permission for Administration of Medication form must be renewed annually at the beginning of each school year.

Medication Guidelines

All medications given in school, including non-prescription drugs, shall be prescribed by a licensed prescriber on an individual basis as determined by the student's health status. Such written documentation must be maintained in the student's individual medication record.

A written order for prescription and non-prescription medications must be obtained from the student's licensed prescriber. The order includes:

1. Student's Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Licensed Prescriber Name, Signature and Date
4. Licensed Prescriber Phone and Emergency Number(s)
5. Name of Medication

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- a. Dosage
- b. Route of Administration
- c. Frequency
- d. Time of Administration
6. Diagnosis Requiring
7. Medication
8. Intended Effect of the Medication /Possible Side Effects
9. Other Medications Student is Receiving
10. Time Interval for Re-Evaluation
11. Approval for Self-Administration
12. Approval for students to carry emergency medication on their person (i.e. inhaler, epipen)

Medication must be brought to the school in a container, labeled appropriately by the pharmacist or licensed prescriber. Prescription medication shall display:

1. Student's Name
2. Prescription Number
3. Medication Name and Dosage
4. Administration Route or Other Directions
5. Date and Refill
6. Licensed Prescriber's Name
7. Pharmacy Name, Address and Phone Number
8. Name or Initials of Pharmacist

Over the Counter Medication (OTC)

OTC (non-prescription) medication shall be brought in with the manufacturer's original label with the ingredients listed and the student's name affixed to the container.

In addition to the licensed prescriber's order, a written request shall be obtained from the parents/guardians requesting that medication be given during school hours. The request must include the name of the student, the parent(s) or guardian's name and phone number in case of emergency. It is the parent(s) or guardian's responsibility to ensure that the licensed prescriber's order, written request and medication are brought to the school.

Students should be evaluated on an individual basis regarding the need to carry emergency medication. A written statement signed by the student's physician and parents/guardians verifying the necessity and student's ability to self-administer the medication appropriately should be on file in the health office.

Medications must be stored in a separate locked drawer or cabinet. When the medication being stored is a controlled substance, the locked cabinet must be securely affixed to the wall. Medications requiring refrigeration must be kept in a locked refrigerator separate from food products.

At the end of the school year or the end of the treatment regime, the student's parent(s) or guardian will be responsible for removing from the school any unused medication. If the parent(s) or guardian does not pick up the medication by the end of the school year,

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medication(s) will be disposed of and documented that it was discarded. Medication must be discarded in the presence of a witness and documentation signed by both parties.

A student has the right to refuse medication and in some instances may do so. In such instances, it is the responsibility of the party designated to administer or supervise medication and explain to the student as fully and clearly as possible the importance of taking the medication. If the student continues to refuse to comply, the parent(s) or guardian and student's physician must be notified.

Allergies/Dietary Restrictions

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school if your student has any food or environmental allergies. Please note that any student with special dietary needs and restrictions will not be offered food items other than what has been provided by the parent/guardian. Changes to any restriction(s) on file must be submitted in writing by the parent/guardian and submitted to the school as soon as possible.

Accident/Incident Reports

An Accident/Incident Report is completed when a student is injured, causes injury, or engages in property destruction. If a minor accident or injury (scrape, cut, bump, etc.) occurs with your student during school hours, a staff person will administer first aid and complete an Accident/Incident Report. A copy of the report, including how the incident occurred and the steps that were taken, will be sent home with the student. The classroom teacher will contact the parents/guardians about the incident and answer any questions or concerns within 24 hours. If a serious injury occurs, in addition to the written report, school staff will immediately contact the listed parents/guardians. If a severe injury or accident were to occur during the school day, we will place a call to 911 to seek medical assistance and notify the listed parents/guardians. ABLE Academy is not responsible for the cost of medical attention/emergency care.

Visitor Policy and Procedures

Access to the school and school personnel is permitted in limited situations. The following procedures apply to those including but not limited to: parents/guardians, qualified professionals retained by or on behalf of the parents/guardians. Visitation will be allowed at any time, with or without prior notice, by personnel from the State Board of Education or the school district of residence of any enrolled student.

Visitors will be provided reasonable access to facilities and personnel. To minimize disruption to the students and their needs, visitors shall provide as much notice as possible of the day and time of the visit request. ABLE Academy will reasonably in its sole discretion grant the request or modify the request to a mutually agreeable time.

1. Visitors must comply with or agree:
 - a. Policies and procedures, including but not limited to safety, security, and visitation policies at all times. This includes signing in and signing out at front desk prior.
 - b. Privacy laws, including but not limited to: those laws protecting the

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confidentiality of records and information such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act, and their respective regulations.

- c. Visitors shall not disrupt the educational process.
 - d. To hold harmless and indemnify ABLE Academy, Inc., its directors, officers, employees and agents against any and all claims and actions arising out of the visitor(s) presence within its facilities, including, without limitation, expenses, judgments, claims, causes of action, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any liability, suit, action, loss, or damage arising or resulting from such visit(s).
2. Reasonable Access is most often defined as not more than 1 observation for a student per quarter during the regular school year and not more than 1 observation during ESY.
 3. If the visitor is a parent/guardian, he or she will be afforded reasonable access as described above for the purpose of:
 - a. Observing his or her student, or
 - b. Visiting to determine if the school meets his or her student's needs.
 4. If the visitor is a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or student, the qualified professional will be provided reasonable access for the purpose of conducting an evaluation of the student and information related to that student. A qualified professional may bring and use reasonable testing or assessment materials. Audio and/or video recording devices (including but not limited to tape recorders, video cameras, computers with recording capabilities, iPads and picture phones) are prohibited, unless deemed necessary and appropriate by ABLE Academy.
 5. If the visitor violates any policy or procedure or interferes with any school activity or duties of school personnel, ABLE Academy may direct the visitor's immediate removal from the school and its facilities.
 6. Before the visit, any visitor must acknowledge that he or she is obligated to honor all students' confidentiality rights and refrain from any re-disclosure of information.

Other Program Information

Lunch/Food

Students are encouraged to bring a sack lunch to school daily. Students may also bring unopened drinks to be consumed during lunch period. No glass containers are allowed in the building. ABLE Academy will not be providing a hot breakfast/lunch. Please make sure your student's lunches, meals and snacks take into account the dietary allergies of other students.

Free and Reduced meals are available for qualified students. Contact the ABLE Executive Director for information regarding this process.

Photo/Media Release

Throughout the school year, we take photographs and video of students for a variety of reasons including student programs, family events, school assemblies and other school events. If for any reason, you do not want your student to be involved in any type of media, please indicate no on

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the Media Release form. This form is sent out in the student packet at the beginning of the school year.

Review of Records

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect, copy and review student records. A qualified staff professional will assist the parent/guardian in interpreting the information contained in their student's record. A parent may authorize release of his/her student records by signing a consent form. Students may inspect their permanent records and any student who is 18 years of age and over has all inspection rights.

Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

ABLE Academy has an emergency and disaster plan which is in compliance with the program procedures for reporting emergencies and evacuating the facility. This written plan is posted at the school and immediately accessible to all staff, substitutes and volunteers. Evacuation routes are posted in prominent locations throughout the building and the school team conducts quarterly emergency drills which are documented. The building is inspected annually by the local fire authority and maintains fire extinguishers with current tags.

The school staff and students will leave our building site and evacuate to a safe location outside or within the school in the event of an emergency or disaster. We will transport the students to the evacuation site by walking. Notification of emergency situations will be communicated to parents/guardians through the phone numbers given during registration. Please keep this information up to date. Emergency lockdown procedures will also be in place to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Child Custody

If you have court-ordered custody agreements which prohibit the student from being released to a particular parent or person, please provide a copy of this agreement to the ABLE Academy.

Live Animals

Students are not permitted to bring live animals to school without prior approval of the classroom teacher. Any animals brought to school without approval will be confiscated as soon as they are discovered and parents will be called to immediately pick up the animal(s).

Service Animals

Pursuant to Section 14-6.02 of the School Code service animals such as guide dogs, signal dogs or any other animal individually trained to perform tasks for the benefit of your student with a disability (i.e. a student with an individual education plan) shall be permitted to accompany that student at all school functions, whether in or outside the classroom. If you wish to have a service animal accompany your student, fill out the appropriate form. Examples of service animal work or tasks include, but are not limited to:

1. Assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks;
2. Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds;

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3. Providing non-violent protection or rescue work;
4. Pulling a wheelchair;
5. Assisting an individual during a seizure;
6. Alerting individuals to the presence of allergens.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) a student eligible as a student with a disability within the meaning of Title II of the ADA as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 may have a “service animal” attend school and school functions as the term “service animal” is defined in the regulations implementing Title II of the ADA (35 C.F.R. Section 35.104) in compliance with the ADA regulations governing the use of service animals (35 C.F.R Section 35.136). If you wish your student with a disability, under Section 504 to have a service animal accompany your student, please complete the appropriate form.

The Administrator shall confirm the status of the ABLE Academy’s insurance coverage regarding both service animals and adult handlers. He or she will make recommendations to ABLE Academy board members, if the Administrator determines that changes to ABLE Academy’s insurance policies are required.

Upon your request to have a service animal attend school or a school function the Executive Director and parent or guardian shall follow the process described below:

1. You shall complete Request for a Service Animal to Accompany Student in School Facilities form and return completed form signed to the Executive Director.
2. In determining whether an animal qualifies as a “service animal,” the Executive Director may make two inquiries of the parent/guardian
 - a. Is the service animal required because of your student’s disability?
 - b. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
 - c. In making the above inquiries the authorized Administrator may not require proof that the animal has, in fact, been trained, certified or licensed as a service animal nor may the Administrator make the above inquiries if it is readily apparent that the animal has been trained to work or perform tasks for a student with a disability.
3. The Executive Director shall consult with such consultants as needed to determine if any student or staff member would be adversely affected by a service animal at school.
4. The Executive Director may develop an implementation plan regarding practical issues concerning presence of the service animal at school.
5. The Executive Director shall determine, if communication to parents or students is necessary regarding the presence or treatment of the service animal in school, while recognizing the confidentiality rights of the student with the service animal.
6. Should the Executive Director deny access to a service animal the parent/guardian may challenge the Executive Director’s determination by filing a discrimination complaint pursuant to binding mediation. If a service animal is excluded under this mediation, your student may still participate in school or school activities without having the service animal on the premises.

The Executive Director may exclude any service animal whose behavior poses a threat to the health or safety of others which may include threats caused by lack of proper housebreaking. The

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care and supervision of a service animal is the responsibility of the service animal's handler. The handler shall maintain control of the service animal at all times. A service animal shall have a harness, leash or other tether, unless such harness interferes with the safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control. The service animal's adult handler must submit to a criminal background check and cannot be a person who is a sex offender as defined under Illinois law. Criminal background checks will be conducted on adult handlers in accordance with ABLE Academy procedures.

1. **Supervision or Care** - The school is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.
2. **Prior Notice Requirements** - If a parent/guardian or service handler brings a service animal to school without prior notice or completion of the requisite form the Executive Director shall ask the parent/guardian to retrieve the animal and complete the necessary form. Until the parent/guardian retrieves the animal, the animal shall remain with the student unless circumstances dictate otherwise in the Executive Director's judgment.
3. **Resources** - Relevant resources for school personnel and parents include:
 - The U.S. Department of Education's "Reasonable Accommodation Handbook," Section C10, provides information about balancing competing interests in the context of a service animal's presence in the work environment. It is available at: www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/acshbom3.pdf.
 - The Illinois Attorney General Office's "Disability Rights Service Animals: A Guide for Illinois Businesses and Other Public Accommodations," available at: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/servanimals.html.
 - The U.S. Dept. of Justice's "Commonly Asked Questions about Service Animals in Places of Business," available at: www.ada.gov/qasrvc.htm.

Student Termination Procedures

If your student's educational, physical or medical needs can no longer be met at ABLE Academy, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The Executive Director will request an IEP meeting be held with you, your student's school district representatives and appropriate ABLE Academy staff members. Your student's entire program will be discussed at the meeting and a joint decision will be made about the appropriateness of continuing the placement at ABLE Academy.
2. If the determination is made that your student will continue to be placed at ABLE Academy, the IEP shall be amended to address and accommodate your student's academic and behavior needs. The appropriate ABLE Academy staff will implement the changes in the student's IEP.
3. Should it be determined that your student requires a different educational placement, written notification is sent to the parents/guardians and school district. Services at ABLE Academy will be terminated 20 business days after the notice has been sent. The Executive Director is responsible for the implementation of termination procedures.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

Fundraising

ABLE Academy will be providing more information about scheduled fundraising events throughout the school year.

Volunteering

Parents are welcome to schedule a time to volunteer during the school day to assist with various job duties as needed from time to time. Please contact your student's teacher for opportunities.

2021-2022

ABLE Academy School Calendar

8/16/21	No School - Staff Training Day
8/17/21	First Day of School
9/3/21	No School - Staff Training Day
9/6/21	No School - Labor Day
10/11/21	No School - Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Da
10/22/21	End First Quarter
11/24/21 - 11/26/21	No School - Thanksgiving Break
12/22/21 - 1/4/22	No School - Holiday/Winter Break
1/5/22	School Resumes
1/13/22	End 2nd quarter
1/14/22	No School - Staff Training Day
1/17/22	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
2/21/22	No School - Presidents' Day
3/15/22	No School - Staff Training Day (Election Day)
3/18/22	End 3rd quarter
3/28/22 - 4/1/22	No School - Spring Break
4/4/22	School Resumes
5/13/22	No School - Staff Training Day
5/27/22	Last Day of Regular School year (Tentative)
5/30/22	No School - Memorial Day
5/31/22 - 6/6/22	Emergency Days (if needed)
6/7/22 - 6/14/22	No School - Summer Break
6/15/22	First Day ESY (Follow ESY Schedule, 9:00 - 1:00 pm)
7/4/22	No School - July 4th Break
7/27/22	Last Day of ESY

Staff Training days are full day of **non-attendance for students.**

Regular School Hours 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

ESY Hours 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Monday - Friday