

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

To a New School

If your child does not have an IEP or 504 plan, please refer to the [Developing An Effective Plan](#) section.

Can I use the current 504 plan?

Your child may be able to continue with the current 504 plan in the new school if he or she is staying within the same school category. However, this request can only be made with the new school administration.

To prepare for the meeting, you should:

- Use the registration and/or orientation process to get familiar with the layout of the school, the schedule your child will follow, key processes (e.g., dismissal for carpool or school bus, lunch, emergency drills) and any other issues that may affect your child.
- Review the current 504 plan and make adjustments to the list of accommodations based on new issues.
- Have copies of school records that show attendance, tardiness, early release and home or hospital instruction, as applicable.
- Prepare a brief written summary of your child's illness, including current status and treatment program (signed by your child's doctor).
- Order free copies of [Juvenile Arthritis: A Teacher's Guide](#) from the Arthritis Foundation.

Can I use the current IEP?

Schedule a transition plan meeting with your IEP team before the end of the school year. The IEP coordinator will help you to manage the transition.

What should I do if we have moved to a new school district or state?

- **If you have an IEP** - If you've moved to a new school district, district officials must provide an education comparable to that of the previous district until a decision is made to adopt your child's IEP from the previous school district, or implement a new IEP. Get guidance from your current IEP team, but you will need to begin a new IEP process. Try to schedule the first meeting with the school counselor within a week after your child is enrolled in the new school.
- **If you have a 504 Plan** - You will need to follow the same process for initiating a 504 plan at the new school.

To a New Class

To prepare for a meeting with your child's new teacher(s), you should:

- Have copies of the current IEP or 504 plan and school records that show attendance, tardiness, early release and home or hospital instruction, as applicable.
- Prepare a brief written summary of your child's illness, including current status and treatment program (signed by your child's doctor).
- Provide a copy of the [Juvenile Arthritis: A Teacher's Guide](#) brochure.

You may want to include your child in a part of the meeting so he or she can talk to the teacher about how having juvenile arthritis affects performance at school.

From a School Absence

Helping your child stay connected with school during home or hospital instruction will make returning to class easier. You, the classroom teacher and the home or hospital teacher can work together to ease the transition by:

- assigning “study buddies” who can work with your child by telephone or via a web camera on assignments
- inviting a classmate or a small group of classmates to visit your home or the hospital

After the first time that a prolonged absence occurs, work with the teacher to prepare your child’s classmates before he or she returns. This will give the other students a chance to ask questions and address any fears or concerns they have.