

# Back-to-School Kit

## A Guide on Accommodations and Rare Neuroimmune Disorders

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### What are accommodations?

Accommodations are adaptations to your child's education that allows them to access the classroom. Accommodations exist as tools to help reintegrate your child with their peers and their education after their diagnosis.

### What kind of accommodations can I ask for?

There are many types of accommodations. A child with acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM) would likely do better if they had accommodations for longer test/exam periods, the ability to rest or take breaks when fatigued, and the ability to receive notes or a study guide from a teacher. A child with acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) or transverse myelitis (TM) may do better if they can have accommodations for physical education (such as substituted activities or adapted exercises) and having unrestricted access to a restroom. Children with optic neuritis (ON) or conditions like myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody disease (MOGAD) or neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD) may need audible or tactile information, or may need to sit closer to the teacher. Additionally, if the child is blind in the left eye, the teacher should place them further to the left side of the classroom, so the child can see the teacher more easily. It would be the opposite way around if the child was blind in the right eye. Depending on the state of a child with NMOSD or MOGAD's condition, any of the above accommodations could be of use. Flexible due dates and attendance above all are usually necessary for kids with rare neuroimmune disorders, considering that these children may need to be absent from school due to hospitalizations, doctor's appointments, fatigue, or pain.

### How do I request accommodations on my child's behalf?

The first step is to contact your child's school. There should be someone on staff (such as a counselor) who can work with you to get the accommodations your child needs integrated into their learning. This point of contact may establish an individualized education program (IEP) and/or a 504 plan on your behalf, both of which are documents that are filed to allow your child to receive accommodations. An IEP is a regularly updated outline of educational milestones that recognizes and works with your child's disabilities. It seeks to ensure your child still meets the same development goals for their age. A 504 plan ensures that your child cannot be discriminated against for their disability, and also provides accommodations as needed.

Upon those accommodations being accepted, your point of contact at the school will work with you, and those who teach your child will be made aware of your child's accommodations and should then accommodate your child's needs.

### Learn More

SRNA  
[wearesrna.org](http://wearesrna.org)

Back-to-School Kit Teacher's  
Guide  
[srna.ngo/bts-tg](http://srna.ngo/bts-tg)

What is an IEP?  
[srna.ngo/iep](http://srna.ngo/iep)

What is a 504 plan?  
[srna.ngo/504](http://srna.ngo/504)

