



September 20, 2021

Hon. Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
Ontario Ministry of Education  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Minister Lecce,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS), a national organization of more than 3600 paediatricians.

One of our programs is called [Diabetes@School](#)--a national collaboration of the CPS, Diabetes Canada, and the Canadian Pediatric Endocrine Group. Diabetes@School provides evidence-based information and resources to help school staff support students with type 1 diabetes. Diabetes@School was involved in the consultation process to develop PPM 161, Ontario's policy on students with medical conditions, and is a [recommended resource for Ontario schools](#).

We are aware that [some students with diabetes in Ontario](#) have not been able to attend school because of a shortage of nurses. While the current nursing shortage is potentially devastating to children with complex medical needs who truly cannot attend school without nursing support, students with diabetes do not need full-time nursing support. Most do not need any nursing services while at school.

Students with diabetes need caring, competent adults in the school setting who are willing to learn and collaborate with parents on diabetes care. In fact, [national guidelines](#) recommend (as does PPM 161) that at least two school personnel be trained to provide support to students with diabetes. Across the province, students with diabetes are assisted in their day-to-day diabetes management by EAs, ECEs in kindergarten settings, office/administration staff, and so on.

Diabetes@School has become an essential tool to equip school staff (and anyone without a medical background) with the knowledge and skills they need to confidently support students with type 1 diabetes. We have developed documents on every aspect of [diabetes management](#) at school, a series of [videos](#), and most recently an online learning module that school staff can take at no cost:  
<https://www.diabetesatschool.ca/schools/managing-type-1-diabetes>

Our materials were developed with paediatric endocrinologists, and represent the most current knowledge in school-based diabetes care. We want to ensure that every child or youth with diabetes is able to fully participate in school.

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We would be happy to speak with you about the school-based needs of children and youth with diabetes, our Diabetes@School program, and how these resources can be used to ensure that no student with diabetes is excluded from school in our province.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

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