



Illinois State Board of Education

February 2013

Guidance Document 13-12

**Diabetes Awareness Day
(PA 97-0819)**

*This document is intended to provide non-regulatory guidance on the subject matter listed above.
For specific questions, please contact the person(s) identified in the document.*

Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of Special Education
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Elizabeth Hanselman
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education

DATE: February 2013

SUBJECT: Diabetes Awareness Day
[Public Act (PA) 97-0819]

Public Act 097-0819 amended the *Commemorative Dates Act* by adding November 14 of each year as Diabetes Awareness Day. The day is designated for the purpose of supporting efforts to decrease the prevalence of diabetes, develop better treatments, and work toward eventual cure for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes through increased research, treatment and prevention.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) currently designated November as American Diabetes Month. More information may be obtained at <http://healthfinder.gov/nho/> or at the American Diabetes Association at askada@diabetes.org.

Consistent with the applicable provisions of the Illinois Statute on Statutes, this guidance provides information on how the Illinois State Board of Education will implement PA 97-0819 and provides guidance on how local school authorities may choose to implement the law.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Where is this law found in the School Code?

Public Act 97-0819 amends the School Code by adding Section 170 to 5 ILCS 490. Visit the following link at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/PDF/097-0819.pdf> to access a copy of this legislation.

2. When did this law take effect?

This legislation became effective on July 17, 2012, the date it was signed into law.

3. How the Illinois State Board of Education will implement PA 97-0819?

- A link to the act and various resources will be provided on the *School Health Page* of

the ISBE website, including any educational materials created by ISBE or diabetes education and advocacy groups. Information posted or provided will be targeted toward improved research, treatment and prevention.

- Beginning in September of each year, November 14 will be mentioned in the State Superintendent's Newsletter as Illinois Diabetes Awareness Day.

4. How should local school boards implement PA 97-0819?

PA 97-0819 requires the "people of Illinois" to support the goal of adding Diabetes Awareness Day to the list of Commemorative Dates. Local school boards may:

- Develop individual methods of commemorating the day.
- Designate a school nurse (Registered Nurse with Type 73) or a Registered Nurse working in the schools to coordinate implementation of PA 97-0819.
- Post the same information and resources as is posted on the ISBE website at www.isbe.net.

For further information, please contact Jessica Gerdes, RN, Principal Consultant, School Nurse / Health Issues. She can be reached at 312-814-5560 in the Chicago office of the Illinois State Board of Education, Special Education Services Division.