

CREATING A *CIRCLE OF SUPPORT*¹

A *Circle of Support* is a group of people that circle around the student to support success in reaching health and learning goals. The people in the “circle” may be different for each student. Each person plays a different role in supporting the student. The school nurse works with the student and family to identify their circle of support and coordinate communication among members.



What to expect:

People in the *Circle of Support* can include:

- school nurse
- family
- community healthcare provider(s)
- school staff (teacher, coach, bus driver, lunchroom person)
- student peers
- community agencies

Roles that Circle members play include:

- providing health care at school
- providing health education to the student and family
- coaching the student to become independent in self-managing the chronic health condition
- tracking progress toward student-centered academic goals
- connecting the student and family with school-based and local resources to meet health and social needs
- providing social and emotional support

Benefits for the student and family include:

- positive connections between the home, school, and community
- secure feeling that the student is well cared for at school
- ability to stay in school and in the classroom, ready to learn
- student confidence in taking charge of caring for his or herself
- having the tools and resources needed to manage the chronic health condition
- a student who is healthy, safe, and ready to learn

References:

- ¹American Academy of Asthma Allergy & Immunology, University of Wisconsin – Madison Department of Medicine. (2016). *SAMPRO™ toolkit*. <https://hipxchange.org/SAMPRO>