

## **Disability Matters – #Advocacy Matters Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

### **Medical Marijuana in Schools**

At the onset, I must say that the federal government continues to view marijuana as an illegal substance and a crime. The information in my Advocacy Matters segment is not intended to assist in providing guidance in violating federal law.

This week, the U.S. Federal Drug Administration approved the use of a pharmaceutical-grade cannabidiol, or CBD, for the use of individuals with two forms of epilepsy.

For those whose lives are improved with the use of medical marijuana, Pennsylvania became the 23<sup>rd</sup> state to approve the use of medical marijuana for a short list of serious medical conditions, including epilepsy.

Recently, the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education issued interim guidance for the use of medical marijuana on school property. As it stands now, a parent, legal guardian or caregiver may administer medical marijuana to their child or the student on school premises if certain conditions are met. This would include providing the school principal with the state Safe Harbor letter, notification to the school principal, and other requirements. It's important for families to familiarize themselves with each state requirements.

Not all states permit students to access medical marijuana on school property.

In California, families must remove their children from school campuses to administer the medicine. In response, families have introduced legislation to change those rules.

On the other side of the coin, Colorado school nurses can administer nonsmokable medical marijuana to students with parental permission on school grounds.

On our website you will find a link to the Pennsylvania interim guidance as well as information about the FDA changes, Colorado, and California.

You can find our website at [disabilityrightspa.org](http://disabilityrightspa.org).

#AdvocacyMatters and with an issue like medical marijuana it takes careful research and staying current with change rules and guidance that vary from state to state.