Name, Grade

Introduction/Background Information (optional section)

This section is optional. Once in middle school/high school, your child will be learning how to advocate for him/herself. At this age, this should be something your child WANTS to share. They are not required to do this; it should be ONLY if they want their teachers to know more about the way they learn and what they are dealing with.

- Information could include: strengths, challenges, goals, learning styles, medical information, personality traits, etc.
- Note: This can be an opportunity for your child to learn to be their own advocate and share their story on their terms.

Accommodations in IEP/504

This section can highlight their approved accommodations or go into details about some of their medical or sensory issues that you mentioned in the above section. Examples may include:

1. **Assistive Technology:** Do they utilize any technologies in the classroom? This could include, laptop for notetaking, FM transponder, Smart Pen, and more.
2. **Lecture Notes:** Some students have the accommodation for copy of teacher notes, this is a good way to remind the teacher that this is an accommodation.
3. **Disability-Related Absences:** How your child handles make-up work.
4. **Ability to Eat / Drink in Class:** When they typically eat/drink in the class? How this helps them?
5. **Sensory Issues:** Do they get overwhelmed by large crowds? Alternatives to situations that may be overstimulated for them.

Example: Below is an example of one Jill's daughter developed in middle school.

More About Me
Halle Heilman, 7th Grade

Medical Issues (Background)

Hello, I am Halle Heilman. I was born with a **rare chromosome deletion (18Q-)** which impacts all areas of my life. My parents were told I would never walk, never talk, never eat and would be mentally handicapped. While I have dealt with a lot of craziness in life, I have overcome a lot of that and I am excited for school this year. In addition to the chromosome anomaly, I have also been diagnosed with **primary immune deficiency** (which is hereditary and receive weekly infusions); **neurocardiogenic syncope** (my automatic nervous system doesn't work properly, causing irregular temp. issues, dizziness, blurred vision, etc – I am on medication for this); **Ehlers Danlos Syndrome** (which causes chronic pain, we are still working on finding the right medication); **mild hearing loss** (benefits from sitting close to the teacher); and **sensory integration dysfunction** (I can get overwhelmed easily – lunchroom and general assemblies are the most difficult)

Accommodations

Despite these many medical issues, I love my life. I like to think I am smart, friendly, and if you ask my mom, I rarely let people know the pain I deal with daily. I do my best to stay up on all my work and really LOVE school, especially history and French! Below are a few things that may help you understand how I learn. I am looking forward to your class.

1. **Assistive Technology:** My hands are disabled. I use a computer for all writing assignments. I can circle items on a test but cannot write words or sentences.
2. **Lecture Notes:** I can't type as fast as other kids write so sometimes its easier to have a copy of your notes, if that's possible…but I will try my best to keep up.
3. **Elevator:** I always have a friend ride with me in the elevator. Last year I got stuck in the elevator twice and it was really scary, and hot! Now I have a friend go with me. I also have permission to have my cell phone on campus for this reason.
4. **Sensory Issues:** I can get overwhelmed easily, especially during new situations. I recently found out I produce 5x the amount of epinephrine as the average person. Cool, right? Nope! It puts me in flight/fright response and I sometimes cry when I get overwhelmed. This is normal. I usually go talk with my guidance counselor, Mr. Feely. He is the best.
5. **Rolling Backpack:** Lockers suck and they are difficult for me. I have been approved to use a rolling backpack for school- it's embarrassing but at least I am not in pain.

6. **Snacking:** With all my medical issues, I sometimes require food and Gatorade to keep me from passing out. I always have something in my bag. Don't freak out if I pass out…just call the nurse – she knows the drill if it happens.
7. **Frequent absences:** With my medical issues, I do miss a lot of school from being sick or going to doctor's appointments. I work really hard to stay up on my work. I will check the online portal to keep up-to-date on assignments, but feel free to email them to me if you want. I will do my best to work on them from home/hospital.
8. **Questions/Concerns:** Feel free to contact me or my mom with any questions or concerns.

Thanks for reading this! My mom is a dork and thinks this is important. I hope this doesn't freak you out too much. On a personal note, I love to dance. I think boys are cute. I love music and hope to be a history teacher one day.

Thanks,

Halle