

### *Administration of Medication to Students*

Unless specifically authorized otherwise by Board Policy, the administration of medication to a student during school, at any school-sponsored activity, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activity, will be permitted only upon prior consent of the student's parent/guardian and at the direction of a licensed healthcare provider, in the following circumstances:

1. Where failure to take or make available such medication would jeopardize the health of the student or would prevent the student from attending school or participating in a school-sponsored activity; or
2. Where the administration of medication is part of a student's accommodation plan, service agreement, or Individualized Education Program (IEP), in accordance with applicable law

### **Definitions**

For purposes of this Policy and the accompanying Administrative Regulation:

**Medication** shall include all medicines prescribed by a licensed healthcare provider, any over-the-counter medication, and all research/investigational medicines/substances.

**Licensed healthcare providers** means any person licensed to administer medication and includes licensed physicians (M.D. and D.O.), podiatrists, dentists, optometrists, certified registered nurse practitioners and physicians assistants and any other provider identified in the accompanying Administrative Regulation.

**Asthma inhaler** shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to treat an acute asthma attack.

**Epinephrine auto-injector** shall mean a prescribed disposable drug delivery system designed for the self-administration of epinephrine to provide rapid first aid for persons suffering the effects of anaphylaxis.

**Self-administration** shall mean a student's pre-approved (by the District) administration of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

**Responsible personnel** shall mean a Certified School Nurse or other supplemental school nurse staff (i.e. a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse), employed by the District directly or as an independent contractor and any other personnel identified in the accompanying Administrative Regulation.

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

Medication administered to students by the District may only be administered by responsible

personnel. The administration of medication to a student may not be delegated to other personnel, such as a teacher, principal, or other administrator, unless specifically authorized by law.

The Superintendent or designee, in consultation with school nurse staff, shall develop Administrative Regulations implementing this Policy consistent with the guidelines outlined below, which shall address the following topics:

1. Procedures that District staff and a parent/guardian must follow before any medication will be administered to a student in accordance with this Policy;
2. Procedures to address the management of specific health situations and emergency responses, including self-administration of medication, in accordance with this Policy;
3. Guidelines regarding the storage and maintenance of medications stored on District property;
4. Procedures for addressing health emergencies; and
5. Record-keeping obligations of District personnel for medications stored on District property and dispensed by responsible personnel in accordance with this Policy.

### **Guidelines**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health periodically issues guidelines and recommendations for the administration of medicine in schools which should be taken into consideration when implementing this Policy and the accompanying Administrative Regulation.

The District shall inform all parents/guardians, students and staff about the Policy and Administrative Regulations governing the administration of medications through appropriate District communication channels.

Except when self-administration is specifically authorized by law, all medications shall be stored and administered by responsible personnel.

### **Special Procedures – Self Administration (Asthma Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors)**

The Board permits students to carry and self-administer asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors when such is authorized by the student's parent/guardian and licensed healthcare provider, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the accompanying Administrative Regulation and applicable law.

### **Special Procedures for Administration of Naloxone (Narcan) and Albuterol Sulfate Solution**

The District Physician shall provide a standing order for naloxone nasal spray for use by the District to assist any individual suspected of experiencing a drug overdose. For life-threatening situations indicating opiate overdose, staff that have completed an online course approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health are authorized to administer naloxone nasal spray. In the event a District employee suspects an opiate overdose or has administered naloxone nasal spray in accordance with this Policy, they shall immediately contact 911. Responsible personnel may also administer Albuterol Sulfate Solution in accordance with applicable law.

### **Special Procedures - Self-Management of Diabetes**

Students are permitted to self-manage diabetes, including possessing and administering diabetes management medication, to the extent permitted by law and in accordance with the procedures outlined in the accompanying Administrative Regulation.

### **First Aid**

Nothing in this Policy is designed to prevent the administration of first aid, including administration of an epinephrine auto-injector, to a student without the express written permission of a parent/guardian, where deemed necessary by a responsible personnel, pursuant to the responsible personnel's professional judgment, unless such treatment has been expressly prohibited by a parent/guardian in writing.

Exceptions to this Policy and the accompanying Administrative Regulation may be made by the Superintendent when recommended by the District's Solicitor to protect the constitutional rights of students, to otherwise ensure compliance with law, or to prevent risk to the health, safety or welfare of one or more students.

### **Legal References & Cross References**

24 P.S. 1409, 1414.1, 1414.2, 1414.5, 1414.10

42 Pa. C.S.A. 8337.1

Pennsylvania Department of Health Guidelines for Pennsylvania Schools for the Administration of Medications and Emergency Care

Board Policies 5401, 5403, 5405, 5225

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