

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Each school principal will authorize staff members to administer oral medications as authorized by the parent/legal guardian, health care provider and licensed school nurse. Oral medications are administered by mouth either by swallowing or inhaling and may include administration by mask if the mask covers the mouth or mouth and nose. These designated staff members will participate in an in-service training session conducted by a physician or licensed nurse prior to the opening of school each year.

Medication may be dispensed to students upon receipt of a current completed and signed written authorization from a parent/legal guardian with a completed and signed written request by a licensed health professional prescribing within the scope of their prescriptive authority. The prescribed medication must be properly labeled and be contained in the original container. The dispenser of prescribed oral medication will:

- 1) Collect the medication directly from the parent/legal guardian (exceptions may be granted on an individual basis); students should not transport medication to school.
- 2) Obtain a current and complete authorization form signed by the parent/legal guardian and by the prescribing health professional, and collect instructions from the prescribing health professional if the oral medication is to be administered for more than fifteen consecutive days;
- 3) Store the authorized oral medication (not more than a twenty (20) day supply) in a locked, substantially constructed cabinet;
- 4) Maintain a daily record which indicates that the authorized oral medication was dispensed.

A copy of this policy will be provided to the parent upon request for administration of medication in the schools.

With the exceptions of oral medications, eye drops, ear drops, nasal sprays and topical medications, medications administered, other than orally, may only be administered by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. No medication will be administered by injection by staff except when a student is susceptible to a predetermined, life-endangering situation. The parent/legal guardian will submit a written statement which grants a staff member the authority to act according to the specific written orders and supporting directions provided by licensed health professional prescribing within his or her prescriptive authority (e.g., medication administered to counteract a reaction to a bee sting). Such medication will be administered by staff trained by the supervising licensed nurse, or in a method approved by the District to administer such an injection.

Written orders for emergency medication, signed and dated, from the licensed health professional prescribing within his or her prescriptive authority will:

- A. State that the student suffers from a life-threatening medical condition.
- B. Identify the drug, the mode of administration and the dose.
- C. Indicate when the medication will be administered.
- D. Recommend follow-up after administration, which may include care of the stinger, need for a tourniquet, administration of additional medications or transport to hospital.

- E. Further, in the event a school nurse or other school employee administers emergency medication in substantial compliance with a student’s medication authorization that has been completed and signed by a licensed health care professional within the scope of their prescriptive authority and written policies and procedures of the District, the school employee, District, and members of the Board are not liable in any criminal action or for civil damages in their individual or other capacity as a result of providing the epinephrine (RCW 28A.210.383)

If a health professional and a student’s parent/legal guardian request that a student be permitted to carry his/or her own medication and/or be permitted to self-administer the medication, the principal may grant permission after consulting with the school nurse. The process for requesting and providing instructions will be the same as established for oral medications. The principal and school’s licensed nurse will take into account the age, maturity and capability of the student; the nature of the medication; the circumstances under which the student will or may have to self-administer the medication and other issues relevant in the specific case before authorizing a student to carry and/or self-administer medication at school. Except in the case of multi-dose devices (like asthma inhalers), students will only carry one day’s supply of medication at a time. Violations of any conditions placed on the student permitted to carry and/or self-administer his or her own medication may result in termination of that permission, as well as the imposition of disciplinary action.



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