

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #33

## **Administration of Medication to Students**

Although the Board discourages the administration of medication to students during the school day when other options exist, it recognizes that in some instances a student's chronic or short term illness, injury, or disabling condition may require the administration of medication during the school day. The school will not deny educational opportunities to students requiring the administration of medication in order to remain in attendance and participate in the educational program.

The intent of this policy is to ensure the safe administration of medications to students by school personnel and to provide for authorization of student emergency self-administration of medication from asthma inhalers and epinephrine pens. The Board encourages collaboration between parents/guardians and the schools in these efforts.

For the purpose of this policy, "medication" includes both prescription and non-prescription (over-the-counter) medications. "Physician" includes physicians, dentists, and other licensed health professionals when prescribing within the scope of their prescriptive authority (e.g., nurse practitioners). "Parent" refers to the student's parent or guardian. "Unlicensed personnel" refers to school staff that is not licensed by the State in any profession that allows for the administration of medication, diagnose medical conditions, provide medical care, and/or prescribe medication (e.g., administrators, teachers, secretaries, education technicians, coaches, bus drivers).

The Board disclaims any and all responsibility for the diagnosis, prescription of treatment, and administration of medication for any student and for any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication.

### **Administration of Medication by School Personnel**

#### **Parental Request**

In the event that no reasonable alternative exists, the parent/guardian may request in writing that medication be administered to the student during the school day. The written request must include an acknowledgement and agreement that unlicensed personnel may administer the medication as per physician's instructions. In addition, the request shall indicate that information regarding the student's medication may be shared with appropriate school personnel. If they choose to do so, parents may reveal the reason (diagnosis) requiring the administration of medication. The provision of such information is optional and disclosure shall not be compelled. Requests shall be valid for the current school year only.

## **Physician's Order**

All parental requests must be accompanied by a written order from the student's physician substantiating the fact that the administration of a particular medication during the school day is necessary for the student's health and attendance in school. Such order must include:

- A. The student's name;
- B. The name and nature of the medication (e.g., tablets, liquid, drops);
- C. The individual dosage;
- D. The frequency, dosage, and duration of treatment;
- E. Potential side effects; and
- F. Any specific instructions or procedures for the administration of the particular medication to the student.

Parental requests must include information concerning the medical personnel to be contacted in the event complications arise with the administration of medication, including missed doses.

Any changes to the following shall require new written requests/orders as applicable:

- A. Information in the physician's original written order;
- B. Health care provider(s);
- C. Specific instructions or procedures for the administration of the particular medication to the student;
- D. Condition of the student; or
- E. Type of medication, dosage, and/or frequency.

In those circumstances where the school nurse or principal/designee believes that the prescription does not provide sufficient information for appropriate administration, or when the physician has indicated that he/she does not want the medication administered by unlicensed school personnel, he/she shall immediately inform the school nurse or principal/designee who shall schedule a meeting including the school nurse, the building administrator, the parent(s), and appropriate professionals to discuss alternative options for administration of medication to the student.

## **Delivery and Storage of Medication**

The student's parents shall deliver any medication to be administered by school personnel to the school in its original container.

No more than a one-month supply of medication shall be kept at school, excluding inhalers and epinephrine pens. The parent is responsible for notifying the school of any changes in or discontinuation of a prescribed medication that is being administered to the student at school. The parent must remove any medication no longer required or that remains at the end of the school year.

The school nurse or principal/designee shall be responsible for the appropriate and secure storage of medications kept at school.

### **Recordkeeping**

School personnel and the student's parent shall count all medication brought to school. The number of capsules, pills or tablets, and/or the volume of other medications shall be recorded.

School staff administering medication shall document each instance the medication is administered including the date, time, and dosage given.

The school nurse or principal/designee shall maintain a record including the parent's request, physician's order, details of the specific medications (including dosage and timing of medication), and documentation of each instance the medication is administered.

Records shall be retained according to the current State schedules pertaining to student health records.

### **Confidentiality**

To the extent legally permissible, staff members may be provided with such information regarding medication and its administration as may be in the best interest of the student.

### **Administration of Medication**

Medication may be administered during the school day by licensed medical personnel acting within the scope of their licenses. All unlicensed personnel (principals, teachers, educational technicians, school secretaries, coaches, bus drivers, etc.) who administer medication must receive annual training before being authorized to do so.

The school nurse will evaluate the unlicensed person's skill, document the successful completion of training, and make recommendations to the Superintendent or designee pertaining to authorization of the unlicensed person to administer medication. Training that shall be acceptable for the purpose of authorization of unlicensed personnel shall be that which is consistent with applicable Maine Department of Education rules, standards, recommendations, programs, and/or methodologies.

Supervision and monitoring of medication administration will be the responsibility of the school nurse.

## **Administration of Medication During Off-Campus Field Trips and School-Sponsored Events**

The school will accommodate students requiring administration of medication during field trips or school-sponsored events as follows:

The school nurse and/or principal will determine whether an individual student's participation is inadvisable due to the unstable/fragile nature of his/her health condition, the distance from emergency care that may be required, and/or other extraordinary circumstances. The student's parent and primary care provider will be consulted in making this determination.

The parent must provide the appropriate number of doses needed for the duration of the field trip or school-sponsored event.

An appropriately trained staff member will be assigned to administer medication. The parent will be encouraged to accompany the student, if possible, to care for the student and administer medication.

All provisions of this policy shall apply to medications to be administered during off-campus field trips and school-sponsored events.

## **Student Self-Administration of Asthma Inhalers and Epinephrine Pens**

Students with allergies or asthma may be authorized by the building principal, in consultation with the school nurse, to possess and self-administer emergency medication from an epinephrine pen (EpiPen) or asthma inhaler during the school day, during field trips, school-sponsored events, or while on a school bus. The student shall be authorized to possess and self-administer medication from an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler if the following conditions have been met.

- A. The parent (or student, if 18 years of age or older) must request in writing authorization for the student to self-administer medication from an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler.
- B. The student must have the prior written approval of his/her primary health care provider and, if the student is under the age of 18, the prior written approval of his/her parent/guardian. The written notice from the student's primary care provider must specify the name and dosage of the medication, frequency with which it may be administered, and the circumstances that may warrant its use.
- C. The student's parent/guardian must submit written verification to the school from the student's primary care provider confirming that the student has the knowledge and the skills to safely possess and use an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler.
- D. The school nurse shall evaluate the student's technique to ensure proper and effective use of an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler taking into account the

maturity and capability of the student and the circumstances under which the student will or may have to self-administer the medication.

- E. The parent will be informed that the school cannot accurately monitor the frequency and appropriateness of use when a student self-administers medication, and that the school unit will not be responsible for any injury arising from the student's self-medication.

Authorization granted to a student to possess and self-administer medication from an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler shall be valid for the current school year only and must be renewed annually.

A student's authorization to possess and self-administer medication from an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler may be limited or revoked by the building principal after consultation with the school nurse and the student's parents if the student demonstrates inability to responsibly possess and self-administer such medication.

To the extent legally permissible, staff members may be provided with such information regarding the student's medication and the student's self-administration as may be in the best interest of the student.

Sharing, borrowing, or distribution of medication is prohibited. The student's authorization to self-administer medication may be revoked and the student may be subject to disciplinary consequences for violation of this policy.

Legal References: 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 254; 4009(4)  
28 C.F.R. Part 35 (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990)  
34 C.F.R. Part 104 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)  
34 C.F.R. Part 300 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

History: Adopted Meeting #675 December 4, 1995 (As policy JHCD)  
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