

Use of Medications Policy

The School shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication and/or medically prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, or the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, and, only if a physician's request is completed.

In the case of an emergency, only the custodial parent can authorize treatment or designate alternative individuals to make those decisions in his or her absence. However, if all reasonable measures to contact the custodial parent and his/her designees have failed, the School may seek authorization from an involved non-custodial parent (i.e. a parent who has rights of unsupervised visitation with the child).

For purposes of this policy, "medication" shall include all medicines including those prescribed by a physician or other licensed health professional authorized to prescribe medicine and any nonprescribed (over-the-counter) drugs, preparations, and/or remedies. "Treatment" refers both to the manner in which a medication is administered and to health-care procedures which require special training, such as catheterization.

The total responsibility for dispensing or administering any medication or treatment shall rest solely with the parent(s) and their child. Before any medication or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the School shall require the written prescription from the child's physician with detailed instructions, written promises of the physician and the parent to forward any changes in the prescription or instructions to the school immediately upon change and to ensure delivery to the appropriate staff. This must be accompanied by the written authorization and waiver of the parent. This document shall be kept on file in the main office of the School with the secured medical files.

Only medication in its original prescription bottle labeled with the date of prescription, student's name, and exact dosage will be administered and only in the presence of another adult. Parents, or students authorized in writing by physician and parents, may administer medication or treatment but only in the presence of an adult staff member assigned for that purpose.

Only Staff Members who are licensed health professionals or who have completed a Board-approved drug administration program conducted by a licensed health professional may administer to a student a drug prescribed for the student. They may also assist a student with self-administration of medications by doing the following: (1) remind the student when it is time to take a medication and observe to ensure that the student follows the directions on the container; (2) assist the student in the self-administration of medication by taking the medication in its container from the area where it is stored and handing the container with the medication in it to the student; and (3) assist upon request by or with the consent of, a physically impaired but mentally alert student, in removing oral or topical medication from the container and in taking or applying the medication.

A licensed health professional, or a Staff Member who has completed a Board-approved drug administration program conducted by a licensed health professional, may administer any medication requiring intravenous or intramuscular injection or the insertion of a device into the body when both the medication and the procedure are prescribed by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs, and the nurse/Staff Member has completed any and all necessary training.

Students who may require administration of an emergency medication may have such medication, identified as stated above, stored in or by the School's office and administered in accord with this policy. The Principal or his/her designee may prepare and distribute administrative guidelines to ensure the proper implementation of this policy.

As long as the School or any person administering medication (a) is authorized by the Board to administer medication; (b) has the prescriber's signed statement; (c) has the parents signed authorization, which includes a promise to submit any changes to the prescription; and (d) the person has not acted in a grossly negligent or wonton or reckless manner, then that person shall not be liable for civil damages for administering or failing to administer medication.

Notwithstanding the above, written authorization or instructions from a health care provider are not required for the possession, use or application of nonprescription topical ointments designed to prevent sunburn, provided however, the School shall require written parental authorization for the application of sunscreen to a student by a School employee where application is not required pursuant to a student's Section 504 Plan or Individual Education Program. School employees authorized to apply sunscreen to students shall be of the same gender as the student and shall be observed by another same-gender employee during the application process. Sunscreen shall only be applied be in areas of exposed skin not otherwise covered by articles of clothing.

R.C. 3313.711; 3313.712; 3313.713.