

Policy

Revision
Second Reading 12-22-15

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

The Board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of medication to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student, or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available to him/her during school hours. Exceptions shall be allowed in the circumstances and with the limitations detailed below when a student suffers from a potentially life-threatening illness or a life-threatening allergic condition.

For purposes of this policy, "medication" shall include all medicines prescribed by a physician/health care provider for the particular student, including emergency medication in the event of acute allergic reactions, etc., and all non-prescription "over the counter" medication.

Before any medication may be administered to or by any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written request of the parent/guardian to give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication. In addition, the Board requires the written order of the prescribing physician/health care provider that shall include:

- A. The purpose of the medication;
- B. The dosage;
- C. The time at which or the special circumstances under which medication shall be administered;
- D. The length of time for which medication is prescribed;
- E. The possible side effects of the medication.

Both documents shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

Franklin Township Public Schools shall institute procedures for the administration of medication which provide that:

- A. All medications, whether prescribed or "over the counter", shall be administered by the Medical Inspector, school nurse or substitute school nurse, the

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parent/guardian or the student himself/herself where the parent/guardian so permits and with the school nurse/designee present;

- B. Medications shall be securely stored and kept in the original labeled container;
- C. The school nurse shall maintain a record of the name of the student to whom medication may be administered, the prescribing physician, the dosage and timing of medication, and a notation of each instance of administration;
- D. All medications shall be brought to school by the parent/guardian or adult student and shall be picked up at the end of the school year or the end of the period of medication, whichever is earlier;
- E. A student may self-administer medication without supervision of the school nurse for asthma or other life-threatening illnesses or life-threatening allergic reactions. "Life-threatening " has been defined as an illness or allergic condition that requires an immediate response to specific symptoms or sequelae that if left untreated may lead to potential loss of life such as, but not limited to, the use of an inhaler to treat an asthma attack or the use of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector to treat a potential anaphylactic reaction.

Nebulizers

Each school in the district shall have and maintain at least one nebulizer in the office of the school nurse or at a similar accessible location. The Superintendent shall prepare and the Board shall adopt regulations on the administration of asthma medication through the use of a nebulizer by the school nurse or his/her designee(s). Regulations shall be in accord with New Jersey statute and administrative code and shall include, but not be limited to, to the following:

- A. Requirement that the school nurse shall be authorized to administer asthma medication through use of a nebulizer;
- B. Requirement that the school nurse receive training in airway management and in the use of nebulizers and inhalers consistent with nationally recognized standards; including, but not limited to, those of the National Institutes of Health and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.
- C. Requirement that each student authorized to use asthma medication or a nebulizer have an asthma treatment plan prepared by the student's medical home, that identifies, at a minimum, asthma triggers and an individualized health care plan for meeting the medical needs of the student while attending school or a school-sponsored event.

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Student Self-Administration of Medication

The Board shall permit self-administration of medication for asthma or other potentially life-threatening illnesses or allergic reactions by students whose parents/guardians have complied with all requirements of law and policy. This policy applies both on school premises during regular school hours and off-site or after regular school hours when a student is participating in field trips or extracurricular activities. Parents/guardians of the student must meet the following conditions:

- A. Provide the Board with written authorization for the student's self-administration of medication;
- B. Provide written certification from the student's physician that the student has asthma or another potentially life-threatening illness or is subject to a life-threatening allergic reaction and is capable of and has been instructed in the proper method of self-administration of medication;
- C. Sign a statement acknowledging that the district shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the student and that the parents/guardians shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or agents against any claims arising out of the self-administration of medication by the student.

The Board shall:

- A. Inform the student and his/her parents/guardians that permission is effective for the school year for which it is granted and must be renewed for each subsequent school year upon fulfillment of requirements listed above;
- B. Inform parents/guardians in writing that the district and its employees or agents shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication.
- C. Maintain the right to revoke a student's permission to self-medicate if he/she has failed to comply with all conditions of this policy and/or has violated in any way the tenets of the agreement to self-medicate. The Superintendent shall confer with the school physician and school nurse prior to recommending termination of a student's permission to self-medicate and shall also consult with the student, the student's parents/guardians, and the student's physician.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION (continued)

Emergency Administration of Epinephrine

The Board authorizes procedures for the emergency administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism with the following requirements:

- A. To ensure prompt availability of the epinephrine in the event of an allergic emergency at a school or at a school-sponsored function, a student's prescribed epinephrine shall be placed in a secure but unlocked location that is easily accessible by the school nurse/designees. The location of the epinephrine shall be indicated on the student's emergency care plan. Back-up epinephrine shall also be available at the school if needed;
- B. The school nurse/designee shall be available promptly on site at the school and school-sponsored functions in the event of an allergic reaction; and
- C. The student shall be transported to a hospital emergency room by emergency services personnel after the administration of epinephrine, even if the student's symptoms appear to have resolved.

The Board grants the school nurse the primary responsibility for the administration of the epinephrine in emergency situations. In his/her absence, a designee or designees who are employees of the Board may do so.

The school nurse in consultation with the Superintendent/designee shall recruit and train volunteer designees in the administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism, using the standardized training protocol designated by the State Department of Education in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services. Each designee shall receive individual training for each student for whom he/she is designated. Acceptable designee candidates shall be identified in each school building as deemed necessary by the nursing services plan.

The Board shall inform the student's parents/guardians in writing that the district, its employees and agents shall have no liability as a result of any injury arising from the administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism to the student.

Parents/guardians shall provide the Board with the following:

- A. Written orders from the physician or advanced practice nurse that the student requires the administration of epinephrine for anaphylaxis;

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- B. Written permission for the administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism by the school nurse or designee(s) from both the physician and parent/guardian;
- C. A signed statement acknowledging their understanding the district shall have no liability as a result of any injury arising from the administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism by the school nurse or designee(s) to the student and that the district, its employees, and agents shall be indemnified and held harmless against any claims arising out of the administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism to the student.

Permission for the administration of epinephrine shall be granted annually and must be renewed each school year upon the fulfillment of the above requirements.

Emergency Administration of Epinephrine for Students Without a Known History of Anaphylaxis

The school nurse or trained designee shall be permitted to administer epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism to any student without a known history of anaphylaxis. This includes students whose parents/guardians have not submitted prior written permission or obtained prescribed medication as indicated in the rules above. Epinephrine may be administered to any student without a known history of anaphylaxis when the nurse or trained designee in good faith believes that the student is having an anaphylactic reaction

The district shall maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors that is prescribed under a standing protocol from a licensed physician or an advanced practice nurse in a secure but unlocked and easily accessible location. The supply of epinephrine auto-injectors shall be accessible to the school nurse and trained designees for administration to a student having an anaphylactic reaction.

Liability

No school employee, including a school nurse, or any other officer or agent of a board, or a physician or an advanced practice nurse providing a prescription under a standing protocol for school epinephrine shall be held liable for any good faith act or omission consistent with the provisions of law for the administration of epinephrine ([N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5 et seq.](#)). No action shall be taken before the New Jersey State Board of Nursing against a school nurse for any such action taken by a person designated in good faith by the school nurse to administer epinephrine according to law ([N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.6](#)). Good faith shall not include willful misconduct, gross negligence or recklessness.

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Implementation

The Board shall adopt regulations on all aspects of the administration of medication.

Adopted: May 21, 2009

Revised:

Legal References:	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-1	Employment of medical inspectors, optometrists and nurses; salaries; terms; rules
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-3.2 <u>et seq.</u>	Medical and Nursing Personnel
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-4	Examination for physical defects and screening of hearing of pupils
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-7	Exclusion of pupils who are ill
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.3	Self-administration of medication by pupil; conditions
	through -12.4	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.5	Policy for emergency administration of epinephrine to public school pupils
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5.f</u>	Administration of epinephrine permitted without known history of anaphylaxis
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.6	Administration of epinephrine; primary responsibility; parental consent
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.7	Nebulizer
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.8	Administration of asthma medication by school nurse through nebulizer; training; pupil asthma treatment plan
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:11-23	Definitions
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Programs to Support Student Development
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.3,	
	-1.4(a), -2.1 <u>et seq.</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u> ,	School District Performance Evaluation
	Appendix	

Bernards Township Education Association v. Bernards Township Board of Education, 1981 S.L.D. (9/29/81), aff'd State Board, 1982 S.L.D. 4/7/82, aff'd App. Div., unpublished opinion (A-4211-81T3, 5/18/83)

Communications Workers of America, Local 1033, On behalf of Karen Norton, Barbara Woolston, Mary Ellen Schoen et al. v. New Jersey State Department of

Education, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, State Board Docket #52-91

Policy Advisory #1 on N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 et seq. Self-Administration of Medication By a Pupil, New Jersey State Department of Education, June 5, 1995

Protocol and Implementation Plan for the Emergency Administration of

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION (continued)

Legal References (continued)

Epinephrine by a Delegate Trained by the School Nurse, New Jersey State
Department of Education, October, 1998

Cross References: 5131.6 Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
5141 Health
5141.1 Accidents
5141.2 Illness
5141.3 Health examinations and immunizations
6153 Field trips

Key Words

Administering Medication, Medication in School, Nebulizer, Anaphylaxis, Epinephrine

Historical Note

Adopted: 10/18/71

Revised: 11/8/76, 6/11/84

Renamed/Renumbered: 4/10/95

(Replaces former Policy No. 5330, Administration of Medication)