

Medication at School

General Statement

Under normal circumstances, prescription and non-prescription, over-the-counter (OTC) medication, should be administered before and/or after school hours under supervision of the parent/ guardian. If a student must receive prescription or OTC oral or topical medication, eye drops, ear drops, or nasal spray from an authorized staff member, the parent/guardian must submit a written request accompanied by a written authorization from a licensed healthcare practitioner (LHP), prescribing within the scope of his or her prescriptive authority. If the medication will be administered for more than fifteen consecutive days, the LHP must also provide written, current, and unexpired instructions for the administration of the medication.

The superintendent will establish procedures for:

- A. Designating staff members who may administer medication to students;
- B. Training, delegation, and supervision of staff members in the administration of oral medication to students by a registered nurse (RN);
- C. Obtaining signed and dated parent/guardian and LHP request and authorization for the administration of medications, including instructions from the LHP if the medication is to be given for more than fifteen (15) days;
- D. Storing medication in a locked or limited access area;
- E. Maintaining records pertaining to the administration of medication;
- F. Permitting, under limited circumstances, students to carry and self-administer medications necessary to their attendance at school; and
- G. Permitting possession and self-administration of over-the-counter topical sunscreen products. (See Sunscreen Section below).

The use of injectable medication for the treatment of anaphylaxis is covered in School District Policy and Procedure 3419 Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medication and School District Policy and Procedure 3420, Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response.

Medications including suppositories, rectal gels, or injections (except for emergency injections for students with anaphylaxis, that is covered in School District Policy and Procedure 3419 Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medication and School District Policy and Procedure 3420, Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response) may not be administered by school staff other than by a RN, licensed practical nurse (LPN), or in some situations by a parent designated adult (PDA).

If the school decides to discontinue administering a student's medication, the superintendent or designee must provide notice to the student's parent/ guardian orally and in writing prior to the discontinuance. There must be a valid reason for the discontinuance that does not compromise the health of the student or violate legal protections for the disabled.

Sunscreen

Over-the-counter topical sunscreen products may be possessed and used by students, parent/guardians, and school staff without a written prescription or note from a licensed health care provider if the following conditions are met:

- A. The product is regulated by the US Food and Drug administration as an over-the-counter sunscreen product; and
- B. The product is provided to the student by a parent/guardian and labeled with the student's full name.
- C. The product is not shared with other students, staff or parents/guardians.
- D. Spray sunscreen is not allowed.

Medical Marijuana:

Washington State law (RCW 69.51A.060) permits the use of medical marijuana, however, federal law (Title IV-Part A—Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities and the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) (21 U.S.C. § 811) prohibits the possession and use of marijuana on the premises of recipients of federal funds including educational institutions.

School nurses may not administer medical marijuana. Only parents or guardians of qualifying students may administer medical marijuana to the qualifying student in the form of marijuana-infused products and only in accordance with district policies and procedures.

Parental Administration of Marijuana for Medical Purposes:

The district will permit a student who meets Washington's statutory requirements for medical marijuana to consume marijuana-infused products for medical purposes on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or while attending a school-sponsored event in accordance with this policy. The district will first verify that the student and parent or guardian meet the statutory requirements by requiring presentation of valid Washington recognition cards for medical marijuana under RCW 69.51A.220.

The district will not store or administer marijuana-infused products for any purpose. Although the school nurse may oversee the process of compliance with this policy, the school nurse will not provide, administer, or assist the student with the consumption of the marijuana-infused product. The parents or guardian of such a student are the only persons who may provide, administer, or assist student with the consumption of the marijuana-infused product. Students will not self-carry or self-administer marijuana for medical purposes or for any other purpose. Administration of a marijuana-infused product by smoking is strictly prohibited.

Building principals will designate a location on school grounds where the parent or guardian can administer a marijuana-infused product to the student. The district discourages parental administration of marijuana-infused products on board a school bus. However, the district acknowledges that there may be circumstances where parental administration of a marijuana infused product on board a school bus is necessary; therefore, the superintendent will establish procedures to address such circumstances. When a school-sponsored event occurs at another Washington public school, the location identified by that school will serve as the location for parental administration of a marijuana-infused product. The superintendent will establish procedures to address circumstances where a school-sponsored event occurs in a place of public accommodation in Washington. However, school-sponsored events that occur outside the state of Washington or on federal property are not subject to Washington law and cannot be included in the scope of this policy.

Parents are expected to notify designated school personnel when they have administered medical marijuana to their qualifying student. After administering the permissible form of medical marijuana to a qualified student, the parent or guardian will remove any remaining marijuana and/or marijuana infused product from school or district grounds, school bus, or school-sponsored event.

The district may limit or revoke permission for a parent or guardian of a qualifying student to administer marijuana for medical purposes if the parent or guardian violates this policy or demonstrates an inability to follow this policy's parameters responsibly.

Nothing in this policy requires an accommodation for medical marijuana in the place of employment or diminishes the district's ability to enforce its drug-free schools policy. Student possession, use, distribution, sale or being under the influence of marijuana inconsistent with this policy may be considered a violation of the district's drug-free schools and subject to district action.

Cross References:

- 3420 - Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response
- 3419 - Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications
- 5201 - Drug-Free Schools, Community, and Workplace

Legal References: RCW 28A.210.260 Public and private schools - Administration of medication — Conditions
RCW 28A.210.270 Public and private schools —Administration of medication — Immunity from liability — Discontinuance, procedure
Chapter 69.51A RCW – Medical Cannabis

Management Resources: 2018 - August 2018
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2014 - February Issue
2012 - August Issue
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