School Board of Escambia County, Florida Policy Manual 3.07 Safety Regulations

 18. Administration of Medication to Students

Administration of medication is the responsibility of the parent/guardian unless it is absolutely essential to the wellbeing of the student to receive medication during the school day. The following regulations must be observed when medication (prescription/nonprescription) is to be administered in the schools, including any occasion when the student is away from school property on official school business, i.e., extracurricular activities, field trips, band, and sports activities.

A. No student will be allowed to have nonprescription medication, in his/her possession on school premises, on a school bus, or at a school function, with the exception of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulated over-the-counter medication to relieve headaches as permitted by Section 1002.20(3)(p) F.S. Students may not share headache medication. All other regulated over-the-counter medications require a “Dispersion of Medication Form” completed in its entirety and signed by the parent/guardian. Parent/Guardian Signature must be witnessed by school staff or be notarized. Photo identification is required. This form is valid for one (1) school year, or earlier stop date. For purpose of this policy, cough drops and sunscreen are not considered a medication. Over-the-counter medications will not be administered to pregnant or breastfeeding students without written direction from the student's physician.

B. No student will be allowed to have prescription medication, in his/her possession on school premises, on a school bus, or at a school function, with the exception of epinephrine, diabetes supplies and equipment, pancreatic enzyme, or asthma inhalers as permitted by Section 1002.20(3)(h-k), F.S. with the parent/guardian and physician’s signature on the “Dispersion of Medication Form.” Variance to this rule requires approval from the Superintendent on a case by case basis.

C. Medications that may be administered by medical or trained non-medical school personnel include the following: oral and topical medications, eye, ear, and nose drops, and inhalers. Administration of other types of prescribed medications are evaluated on an individual basis, require child specific training, and appropriate delegation as determined by the professional school nurse. All delegation must be in accordance with the Florida Nurse Practice Act, Chapter 464, F.S.

D. Medication must be in the original labeled container. No more than a ninety (90) day supply of the medication may be kept at the school. For student safety it is required that the parent/guardian or a responsible adult deliver the medication at the school. In hardship cases, the parent/guardian must request in writing, and receive approval from the school administrator, for an alternative plan for medication delivery.

E. Designated school personnel must attend a workshop in general medication administration and documentation procedures. Following the workshop, the school nurse routinely monitors medication administration and documentation by school personnel. Questions regarding the purpose, effect, expected results, and untoward effects of a medication should be referred to the school nurse.

F. Changes in medication require a new “Dispersion of Medication Form” and medication container.

G. Upon receipt, medication will be counted and documented on the Student Medication Record. Medication will be stored under lock and key when not in use.

H. Each dose of medication administered will be recorded on the Student Medication Record. When the medication authorization form expires or is changed it will be filed in the student's permanent Cumulative Record.

I. In cases where a student is able to medicate him or herself (according to the physician's statement), school personnel will store the medication and generally supervise the student's self-medication.

J. Medication will be destroyed if not picked up within one (1) week following termination of the medication authorization form or the end of the school year, whichever occurs first. Medication will be destroyed in a manner in which it cannot be retrieved. Disposal will be witnessed by two persons designated by the principal and documented on the Student Medication Record.

K. ALL STUDENT MEDICATION RECORDS WILL BE HANDLED IN A CONFIDENTIAL MANNER.

19. Administration of Medical Marijuana to Qualified Students on District Property

Medical marijuana should be only administered on District property during school hours when administration cannot reasonably be accomplished outside of school hours. In those limited circumstances when it is medically necessary, administration of medical marijuana to qualified students on District property shall be in accordance with this policy.

A. Definitions – For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply per Florida Statute:

1. “Qualified student” means a student who is a resident of this state who has been added to the medical marijuana use registry by a qualified physician to receive marijuana for medical use and who has a qualified patient identification card.

2. “Caregiver” means a person at least twenty-one (21) years of age and a resident of this state who has agreed to assist with a qualified patient’s medical use of marijuana, has a caregiver identification card and meets the requirements set forth in Section 381.986(6), F.S.

3. “Designated location” means a location identified by the District or school administrator in its sole discretion on school grounds.

4. “Marijuana” means all parts of any plant of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin, including low-THC Cannabis, which are dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center for medical use by a qualified patient.

5. “Permissible type of medical marijuana products” means non-inhalable products such as oils, tinctures, edible products or lotions that can be administered and fully ingested or absorbed in a short period of time. Due to the potential for misuse, vapors, patches or other types of administration that continue to deliver medical marijuana to a student while at school are NOT permitted.

B. School nurses, healthcare personnel, and District staff are NOT permitted to administer, store, hold or transport the medical marijuana in any type. Medical marijuana will NOT be stored on any District property, including school grounds, at any time.

C. Medical marijuana CANNOT be administered to a qualifying student while aboard a school bus or at a school-sponsored event.

D. A copy of the qualified student’s valid registration form for medical marijuana must be provided to the school.

E. An Authorization for Medical Marijuana Use for Qualified Students at School form must be submitted each school year. If there are any changes to the type of preparation of medical marijuana, a new form must be submitted. This form must be signed by the parent/guardian, caregiver, and school administrator.

F. Any caregiver seeking access to District property for purposes of the policy must comply with District policy and procedures concerning visitors to schools.

G. The caregiver shall be responsible for providing, administering, and then removing the permissible type of medical marijuana from District property.

H. At no time shall the qualifying student have the medical marijuana in his/her possession.

I. If the federal government indicates that the District’s federal funds are jeopardized by this policy, or asks the District to cease and desist the implementation of this policy, the Board declares that this policy shall be suspended immediately and that the administration of any type of medical marijuana to qualified students on school property shall not be permitted. The District will comply with any federal guidance and/or directives related to the policy. The District shall post notice of such policy suspension and prohibition in a conspicuous place on its website.

Legal

Rulemaking Authority: Sections 1001.41; 1001.42; 1001.43, F.S

Law Implemented: 28 C.F.R. 35.104; Sections 381.0056; 413.08; 790.001; 790.06; 790.115; 1001.32; 1001.42; 1002.20; 1006.062; 1013.12, F.S.

**Last Modified by Lenaha Kidd on October 18, 2023**