



Policy: 516 Student Medication Policy

Adopted: 2009

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Revised: 10-18-2022

516 Student Medication -

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the provisions that must be followed when administering non-emergency prescription medication to students at school.

II. General Statement of Policy

The school district acknowledges that some students may require prescribed drugs or medication during the school day. The school district's licensed school nurse, trained health clerk, administration, or teacher will administer prescribed medications in accordance with law and school district procedures.

III. Requirements

A. The administration of prescription medication or drugs at school requires a completed signed request from the student's parent. An oral request must be reduced to writing within two school days, provided that the school district may rely on an oral request until a written request is received.

B. An Administration of Prescribed Medication form must be completed at least annually (once per school year) and/or when a change in the prescription or requirements for administration occurs. Prescription medication as used in this policy does not include any form of medical cannabis as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 152.22, Subd. 6.

C. Prescription medication must come to school in the original container labeled for the student by a pharmacist in accordance with law and must be administered in a manner consistent with the instructions on the label.

D. School district personnel may request to receive further information about the prescription, if needed, prior to administration of the substance.

E. Prescription medications are not to be carried by the student but will be left with the appropriate school district personnel. Exceptions to this requirement are: prescription asthma medications self-administered with an inhaler (See Part J.5. below), and medications administered as noted in a written agreement between the school district and the parent or as specified in an IEP (individualized education program), Section 504 plan, or IHP (individual health plan), or Administration of Prescription Medication form.

F. The school must be notified immediately by the parent in writing of any change in the student's prescription medication administration. A new medical authorization or container label with new pharmacy instructions shall be required immediately as well.

G. For drugs or medicine used by children with a disability, administration may be as provided in the IEP, Section 504 plan or IHP.

H. The school nurse, or other designated person, shall be responsible for keeping a file of the Administering Prescription Medications form in a health records binder.

I. Procedures for administration of drugs and medicine at school and school activities shall be developed in consultation with a licensed school nurse, or a public or private health organization or other appropriate party (if appropriately contracted by the school district under Minnesota Statutes section 121A.21). The school district administration shall submit these procedures and any additional guidelines and procedures necessary to implement this policy to the school board for approval. Upon approval by the school board, such guidelines and procedures shall be an addendum to this policy.

J. Exceptions

1. Special health treatments and health functions such as catheterization, tracheostomy suctioning, and gastrostomy feedings do not constitute administration of drugs and medicine;
2. Emergency health procedures, including emergency administration of drugs and medicine are not subject to this policy;
3. Drugs or medicine provided or administered by a public health agency to prevent or control an illness or a disease outbreak are not governed by this policy;
4. Drugs or medicines used at school in connection with services for which a minor may give effective consent are not governed by this policy;
5. Drugs or medicines that are prescription asthma or reactive airway disease medications can be self-administered by a student with an asthma inhaler if:
 - (i) the school district has received a written authorization from the pupil's parent permitting the student to self-administer the medication;
 - (ii) the inhaler is properly labeled for that student; and
 - (iii). the parent has not requested school personnel to administer the medication to the student.

If the school district employs a school nurse or provides school nursing services under another arrangement, the school nurse or other appropriate party must assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting and enter into the student's school health record a plan to implement safe possession and use of asthma inhalers.

6. Medications

- (i) that are used off school grounds;

- (ii) that are used in connection with athletics or extracurricular activities; or
- (iii) that are used in connection with activities that occur before or after the regular school day are not governed by this policy.

[Note: The provisions of paragraph 6 are optional and the school board may choose to include or exclude any of the provisions specified.]

7. Non Prescription Medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen may be administered in the health room with parental permission.

8. At the start of each school year or at the time a student enrolls in school, whichever is first, a student's parent, school staff, including those responsible for student health care, and the prescribing medical professional must develop and implement an individualized written health plan for a student who is prescribed epinephrine auto-injectors that enables the student to:

- (i) possess epinephrine auto-injectors; or
- (ii) if the parent and prescribing medical professional determine the student is unable to possess the epinephrine, have immediate access to epinephrine auto-injectors in close proximity to the student at all times during the instructional day.

The plan must designate the school staff responsible for implementing the student's health plan, including recognizing anaphylaxis and administering epinephrine auto-injectors when required, consistent with state law. This health plan may be included in a student's § 504 plan.

9. A student may possess and apply a topical sunscreen product during the school day while on school property or at a school-sponsored event without a prescription, physician's note, or other documentation from a licensed health care professional. School personnel are not required to provide sunscreen or assist students in applying sunscreen.

K. Districts and schools may obtain and possess epinephrine auto-injectors to be maintained and administered by school personnel to a student or other individual if, in good faith, it is determined that person is experiencing anaphylaxis regardless of whether the student or other individual has a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector. The administration of an epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with this section is not the practice of medicine.

A district or school may enter into arrangements with manufacturers of epinephrine auto-injectors to obtain epinephrine auto-injectors at fair-market, free, or reduced prices. A third party, other than a manufacturer or supplier, may pay for a school's supply of epinephrine auto-injectors.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Student Health Data)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.21 (Hiring of Health Personnel)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.22 (Administration of Drugs and Medicine)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.2205 (Possession and Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors; Model Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.2207 (Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools; Stock Supply of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.221 (Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers by Asthmatic Students)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.222 (Possession and Use of Nonprescription Pain Relievers by Secondary Students)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.223 (Possession and Use of Sunscreen)
Minn. Stat. § 151.212 (Label of Prescription Drug Containers)
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Medical Cannabis; Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Medical Cannabis; Limitations)
20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004)
29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq. (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)