

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: **5000**
CATEGORY: **Students**
POLICY CODE: **5141.25/Students with
Special Health Care Needs**

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education to ensure that students who have special health care needs due to chronic and acute health conditions receive supports and services necessary to remain safe and, to the extent possible, maintain their baseline health status during school.

Adopted: 10/02/07

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Regulations

“Students with special health care needs” refers to those students who have a medically diagnosed chronic health condition such as, but not limited to, asthma, diabetes, life-threatening food allergy, cardiac abnormality, juvenile arthritis, celiac disease, migraine headache, seizures, or a significant acute illness or injury requiring treatment and a period of recovery, such as mononucleosis, Lyme Disease, or a fractured arm or leg. The term may also include students with mental health conditions, such as situational depression and anxiety disorder, when the school team and family agree that an individualized health care plan is an appropriate mechanism for providing support and interventions in school. The term “special health care needs” is broader than and not synonymous with either “disability” or “illness.”

Goals

1. To protect the safety and maintain the health of children who have specialized health care needs in ways that are developmentally appropriate; provide appropriate educational opportunities; focus on prevention of health complications and learning interruptions; and, promote independence, self-advocacy and competence in self-care.
2. To ensure that interventions and individualized health care plans for students with special health care needs are based on medically accurate information, evidence-based practices, district policy and procedures, and collaboration among the school team, students, families and health care providers.
3. To define a formal process for identifying, managing, and ensuring continuity of care from grade to grade and school to school for students with specialized health care needs.

In order to promote the health, safety and learning of students with chronic and certain acute health conditions, school district staff shall:

1. Identify students with special health care needs who may require an individualized health care plan (IHCP) and/or individualized emergency care plan (IECP) to address health and safety needs for school attendance.
2. Provide information to students and their families regarding the school district’s policy and procedures for addressing students’ special health care needs in school.
3. Collaborate with students and families to develop an IHCP for those students identified as requiring health services and/or regular education accommodations in order to maintain their health and safety in school.
4. As part of the IHCP, develop and distribute to appropriate staff an individualized emergency care plan (IECP) for students at high risk for a health or safety emergency in school.

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Regulations cont'd.

5. Consider information from students' health care providers in developing IHCPs and/or IECPs.
6. Consider whether a student with special health care needs may also be eligible for services under Section §504 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), and refer accordingly.
7. Follow the district's guidelines for establishing and updating IHCPs.
8. Student specific goals, and services and accommodations considered for an IHCP, will be based on scientific knowledge, current medical and nursing standards of practice, the needs and developmental stage of the student, the student's readiness for increased independence in the school setting, the needs of other students, student and family preferences, and the policies and procedures of the school district.

References

Connecticut General Statutes

52-557b – Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection

10-220i – Transportation of Students carrying cartridge injectors

10-212a – Administration of Medication in Schools

PA 05-144 and 05-272 An Act Concerning the Emergency Use of Cartridge Injectors

10-212c – Life threatening food allergies: Guidelines; district plans.

Department of Nursing forms

Trumbull Board of Education policies

Nutrition in School, Policy Code: 5141.27

Administration of Medication by School Personnel, Policy Code: 5141.21

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Guidelines

Guidelines for Managing Students with Special Health Care Needs

Family Responsibility

- Notify the school of the student's health care need.
- Work with the school team to develop a plan that accommodates the student's needs throughout the school including in the classroom, in the cafeteria, in after-care programs, during school-sponsored activities, and on the school bus.
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician.
- Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications after use or upon expiration as dictated by the Administration of Medication by School Personnel policy (Policy Code: 5141.21).
- Educate the child in self management including, but no limited to,:
 - Strategies for avoidance
 - Symptoms
 - How and when to tell an adult they may be having a health emergency
- Review policies/procedures with school staff, the student's physician, and the student (if age appropriate) after a health emergency has occurred.
- Provide emergency contact information.

School Responsibility

- Be knowledgeable about and follow applicable federal laws including ADA, IDEA, Section 504, and FERPA, and any State law or district policy that apply.
- The School Nurse reviews the health records submitted by parents and physicians.
- Assure that all staff who interact with the student on a regular basis understand his/her special health care needs, have accessible copies of the student's IHCP and IECF as needed, and be able to recognize symptoms, and know what to do in an emergency.
- Coordinate with the school nurse to be sure medications are appropriately stored, and be sure that a student specific emergency kit is available that contains a physicians' order for medication.

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Guidelines cont'd.

- Designate school personnel who are properly trained to administer medications in accordance with the State Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administration of emergency medications.
- Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medications during the school day regardless of time or location.
- Review policies/prevention plan with the core team members, parents, student (if age appropriate), and physician after an emergency has occurred.
- Discuss field trips with the family of student with special health problems to decide appropriate strategies for managing the health problem.
- Notify substitute staff and train as appropriate.
- Follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about the student.
- Take threats or harassment against a student with special health care needs seriously.

Student Responsibility

- Should be proactive in the care and management of their special health care needs based on their developmental level.
- Should notify an adult immediately if they believe they are having a health emergency.