

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL: 3416

Washington State law permits district staff to administer medication only in limited situations. When possible, the parents/guardians and health care provider are urged to design a schedule for giving medication outside school hours. Medication is defined to mean all drugs, whether prescription or “over-the-counter,” oral or topical, eye drops, ear drops or nasal spray. RCW 18.79.260 and WAC246.840.010 allow for licensed registered nurses to delegate the administration of medication to unlicensed district staff. Delegation is the assignment of the performance of a specific nursing task to a non-licensed individual in selected situations. The registered nurse delegating the task retains the responsibility and accountability for the nursing care and maintains the right to refuse delegation to district staff unwilling or unable to perform the task as directed. The delegated staff will participate in medication administration session(s) conducted by the registered nurse prior to administration of any medication.

No student may give, dispense, or administer any medication or remedy to another student.

No medication shall be administered by injection except when a student is susceptible to a pre-determined, life-endangering situation. In such an instance, the parent/guardian shall submit a signed written permission statement. In the case of self-administered medication, the parent shall submit a signed permission/release form. Such an authorization shall be supported by signed and dated written orders accompanied by a treatment plan from the licensed healthcare professional.

If a nurse is on the premises, he/she may administer a nasal spray containing a prescribed drug or controlled substance to a student. If a nurse is not on school premises, a nasal spray containing a legend (prescribed) drug or controlled substance may be administered by: 1) a trained district employee, provided that person has received appropriate RN delegation and volunteered for the training pursuant to RCW 28A.210.260; or 2) a parent-designated adult.

A parent-designated adult is a volunteer (who may be a school district employee) who receives additional training from a healthcare professional or expert in epileptic seizure care selected by the parents who provides care for the student consistent with the student’s individual health plan on file with the school.

Required Notification of EMS

After every administration of any legend (prescribed) drug or controlled substance by nasal spray to a student, Emergency Medical Services (911) will be summoned as soon as practicable.

Diabetes-related medications are addressed separately in Policy – 3415.

Students in preschool through fifth grade shall not be in possession of over-the-counter or prescription drugs or medications/remedies on school premises unless written clearance has been received from the principal and school nurse.

Students in grades 6-12 shall not be in possession of over-the-counter or prescription drugs or medications/remedies on school premises except as provided below:

Adopted and Revised under Policy Governance – 4/24/12; 03/14/17

Adopted or Previously Revised – 05/13/08

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A. Prescription Medications

In situations where the parent/guardian, principal and school nurse believe it is in the best interest of the student that he or she carry the prescription medication, the student shall carry a copy of the written permission from the parent and physician, indicating the name and dosage of the medication, plus dates and time to be given.

Only one day's dosage (in originally labeled container) shall be carried by student (inhalers may be excepted from this requirement).

This permission does not extend to controlled substances. The original permission form will be on file in the Health Room.

B. Non-prescription Medication

Students in grades 6-12 may be in possession of over-the-counter (non-prescription) drugs or medications/remedies on school premises under the following conditions:

- 1) Student must carry written permission from parent/guardian indicating what over-the-counter medicine and dosage student may take. A copy of the form should be kept in the student's health file.
- 2) Student must carry only one school day's dosage, in the originally labeled container.
- 3) The student does not need to come to the health room to take the medication and may take it wherever is convenient, but he/she must show the parent permit if requested.

Legal References: RCW 28A210.260 Administration of Oral Medication by–Conditions
RCW 28A210.270 Administration of Oral Medication by–Immunity
from Liability–Discontinuance, procedure

Attorney General memorandum (2/9/89) – Administration of Medication