

### **Alabama Act 2017-278 - USE OF SUNSCREEN AT SCHOOL**

This bill specifies that a student may use sunscreen at school without compliance with rules of the State Department of Education or State Board of Nursing. Students may bring sunscreen to school and apply it themselves. If a student, parent, or guardian requests a school board employee to apply sunscreen to a student they must present a signed Parent Prescriber Authorization Form (PPA) to the school nurse. A physician signature or physician order shall not be required.

### **Alabama Resolution 2017-19 – BACKPACK EDUCATION**

The Legislature strongly recommend that all school administrators, teachers, parents, and students be educated about the potential health impact of heavy backpacks and take proactive measures to avoid injury. Alabama schools are encouraged to develop backpack education talking points to include the following:

- Backpacks should weigh no more than a maximum of 10 percent of a child's body weight.
- Encourage ergonomic backpacks with individualized compartments to efficiently hold books and equipment.
- Encourage children to wear both shoulder straps and not sling the backpack over one shoulder.
- Encourage wide, padded adjustable straps that fit a child's body.
- Encourage the heaviest books be left at school and handouts or workbooks be used for homework assignments.
- Schools should consider moving toward e-textbooks as federal and state funding becomes available.
- Schools should consider integrated education about backpacks by using a hanging scale in the classroom, allowing students to weigh their backpack and enter the results into a graph that would track the weights, and then look at the data to determine what may be done to lighten loads.

### **Alabama Act 2017-368 - INFORMATION REGARDING INFLUENZA VACCINES**

This bill requires local school systems to provide information on influenza disease and its vaccine to parents and guardians of students whenever other health information is provided. An informative flyer is provided on the school system's website. Influenza vaccines are offered at the schools during the school year. Consent forms and influenza information is provided for parents during this period as well.