

The District will permit a student who meets Washington’s statutory requirements for the use of medical marijuana to consume marijuana-infused products as defined under RCW 69.50.101 for medical purposes on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or while attending a school-sponsored event in accordance with this policy and with procedures established by the Superintendent for its implementation. The District will first verify that the student and parent/guardian who is acting as the designated provider meet applicable statutory requirements by requiring presentation of valid Washington recognition cards for medical marijuana under RCW 69.51A.220. The Superintendent will establish a procedure for conducting this verification.

The District will not store or administer marijuana-infused products for any purpose. Although the school nurse may oversee the process of compliance with this policy, school staff will not provide, administer, or assist the student with the consumption of the marijuana-infused product. The parents/guardian of such a student are the only persons who may provide, administer, or assist student with the consumption of the marijuana-infused product. Students will not self-carry or self-administer marijuana for medical purposes or for any other purpose. Administration of a marijuana-infused product by smoking or other methods involving inhalation is strictly prohibited.

The Superintendent will consult building principals to identify a location on school grounds where the parent/guardian can administer a marijuana-infused product to the student, considering feasibility and the needs for privacy. The identified location must not create risk of disruption to the educational environment or exposure to other students. The superintendent will establish procedures addressing parental administration of a marijuana-infused product aboard a school bus when administration in these circumstances is necessary. When a school-sponsored event occurs at another Washington public school, the location identified by that school will serve as the location for parental administration of a marijuana-infused product. The superintendent will establish procedures to address circumstances where a school-sponsored event occurs in a place of public accommodation in Washington. However, school-sponsored events that occur outside the state of Washington or on federal property are not subject to Washington law and are not included in the scope of this policy.

After administering the permissible form of medical marijuana to the qualifying student, the parents/guardian will remove any remaining marijuana from school or District grounds, school bus, or school-sponsored event. The District may limit or revoke permission for the parents/guardian of a qualifying student to administer marijuana for medical purposes if the parents or guardian or qualifying student violates this policy or demonstrates an inability to follow this policy’s parameters responsibly.

Nothing in this policy requires an accommodation for medical marijuana in the place of employment or diminishes the District’s ability to enforce its drug-free schools policy. Student possession, use, distribution, sale or being under the influence of marijuana inconsistent with this policy may be considered a violation of the District’s drug-free schools policy and subject to District action.

Legal References:

RCW 28A.210.260 Public and private schools - Administration of medication — Conditions

RCW 28A.210.325 Medical use of marijuana-infused products – Administration by parent or guardian – School Districts to develop policies

RCW 28A.300.473 – Medical use of marijuana – Suspension of policies that authorize student use on school grounds

Chapter 69.51A RCW – Medical Cannabis

Adopted: May 19, 2020 North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors