

PROTOCOL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA

The Rhode Island Department of Health School Health Regulations require that every school authority develop protocols or procedures authorizing parents, parents' designees, legal guardians, and school nurses in accordance with §4.23.2 of said Regulations, to administer medical marijuana to a student while the student is on school campus. The Bristol Warren Regional School District shall utilize the following protocols:

1. Students are authorized to engage in use of medical marijuana pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28.6.
2. BWRSD requires a written process for verifying the student's medical marijuana cardholder registration and ongoing medical marijuana cardholder authorization status. The following shall be provided to the building school nurse and Principal:

Written instructions for medical marijuana administration that includes:

- a. The signature of the certifying physician, advanced practice nurse practitioner, or physician assistant;
 - b. The student's debilitating medical condition;
 - c. The dose of medical marijuana, including the amount of CBD and/or THC (where applicable) per dose;
 - d. Minimum interval between dosage; and
 - e. Possible side effects to be included in the student's IHCP.
3. In addition, all medical marijuana products utilized under this protocol shall only be obtained from a Rhode Island licensed compassion center. All medical marijuana products utilized must be labeled with the following information:
 - a. The student's name;
 - b. The student's date of birth;
 - c. Dosage;
 - d. Ingredients of product.
 4. The school nurse (or building administrator if a nurse is not in the building) shall document each dose of medical marijuana administered to a student. Documentation must include:
 - a. Date and time;
 - b. Dosage;
 - c. Route of administration; and
 - d. The signature of the parent, parents' designees, legal guardian, or school nurse who is administering the medical marijuana.
 - e. In the event the dosage is not administered as dictated by the instructions required under this Protocol, the reason(s) therefore must be noted.

5. Medical marijuana may not be administered to a student by smoking or other form of inhalation.
6. The locations on the school campus where medical marijuana may be administered shall be clearly identified, in writing.
7. Each school shall obtain a written and signed statement from the student's parent or legal guardian releasing the school, and employees and volunteers of the school, from liability, except in cases of willful or wanton conduct or disregard of the criteria of the IHCP. Without this signed form the medical marijuana will not be administered.
8. Students are prohibited from handling or self-administering medical marijuana on the school campus.
9. Student possession, use, distribution, or sale of marijuana that is inconsistent with the provisions of § 4.23 of the Regulations, R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 16-21-16 and 16-21-21.1, or this Protocol is prohibited.
10. A student who is authorized to use medical marijuana shall not be considered under the influence of marijuana and not penalized pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 16-21-16 and 16-21-21.1.
11. This Protocol does not apply during the time a student is engaged in a school-sponsored trip or activity outside the state of Rhode Island.
12. The school may not discipline or otherwise discriminate against a student who is administered medical marijuana and may not deny the student's eligibility to attend school solely because the student requires the administration of medical marijuana.
13. This protocol does not apply to FDA-approved cannabinoid medications. Examples of FDA-approved cannabinoid medications include Epidiolex (cannabidiol), Marinol (dronabinol), Syndros (dronabinol), and Cesamet (nabilone).

Administration of Medical Marijuana by a School Nurse

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28.6-4(n), a school nurse may administer medical marijuana to a student. Administration of medical marijuana to students by school nurses must follow all requirements of the R.I. Department of Health School Health Regulations and this Protocol.

Additionally:

1. All medical marijuana to be administered by the school nurse must be kept in a secured cabinet designated by the school.

2. No school nurse shall be subject to disciplinary action by the applicable Rhode Island professional licensing board solely for following an appropriate written certification to administer medical marijuana.
3. Nothing in this Protocol requires a school nurse to administer medical marijuana to a student, provided that the school nurse's decision not to administer medical marijuana applies to all students authorized to use medical marijuana.
4. School's whose school nurse refuses to administer medical marijuana shall make arrangements for the student to receive his or her medical marijuana during the school day.

Administration of Medical Marijuana by Parents, Parents' Designees, and Legal Guardians

Administration of medical marijuana to students by parents, parents' designees, and legal guardians must follow all requirements of the R.I. Department of Health School Health Regulations and this Protocol.

Additionally:

1. Any medical marijuana taken onto the school campus by the parent, parents' designee, or legal guardian must be either:
 - a. Consumed/utilized in its entirety by the student; or
 - b. The excess medical marijuana which is not consumed/utilized by the student must be removed in its entirety from the school campus, with the exception of any disposable packaging which no longer contains medical marijuana.

ADOPTED: November 14, 2022

LEGAL REFS: R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 16-21-16 and 16-21-21.1