

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE

Policy Code: 5023/6128/7268

The Watauga County Board of Education recognizes the growing opioid overdose epidemic and its potential impact on the school system. Naloxone, an opioid antagonist approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in a timely manner. As part of its commitment to providing a healthy and safe environment for students, employees, and visitors, the board establishes this policy to address the use of naloxone in emergency situations in schools to prevent opioid overdose deaths.

A. AVAILABILITY OF NALOXONE

To the extent funding, staff, and training are available, the superintendent or designee is authorized to obtain an adequate supply of naloxone for each school in the school system. The school nurse is responsible for monitoring the expiration dates of the school's naloxone and, prior to the expiration date, notifying the superintendent or designee of the need to procure a replacement.

Naloxone must be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in secure, but unlocked and easily accessible, locations. All employees trained to administer naloxone will be made aware of its storage locations.

Nothing in this policy should be construed to require the presence or use of school system-supplied naloxone on school property or at school events, unless otherwise required by law. The board cannot and does not guarantee that school system-supplied naloxone or a person trained in its use will be available in any particular situation.

B. ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE

The principal at each school where naloxone is stored shall designate one or more school employees, as part of the medical care program under G.S. 115C-375.1, to receive training regarding the storage and emergency use of naloxone. Only trained employees are authorized to administer naloxone to persons suspected to be experiencing an opioid overdose on school property. The principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify other school employees as to who has received training in order to facilitate a prompt emergency response. A list of trained employees should be maintained at the school.

C. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies only to the use of school system-supplied naloxone. Nothing in this policy is intended to regulate, restrict, or deter law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, or other authorized individuals from administering their own supply of naloxone when responding in good faith to a suspected opioid overdose occurring on school property.

The superintendent or designee shall develop any administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

Legal References: G.S. 90-12.7, -21.14, -96.2; 115C-375.1

Cross References: Drugs and Alcohol (policy 4325), Prohibition of Drugs and Alcohol (policy 5025), Administering Medicines to Students (policy 6125), Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace (policy 7240)

Other Resources: *North Carolina Naloxone Distribution Toolkit*, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, available at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/overdose-epidemic/syringe-and-naloxone-access>

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