



ADDISON NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

SECTION	Students	CODE	C71¹ (Recommended)
TITLE	Possession and Administration of Emergency Medication		

POLICY

The Addison Northwest School District (District) shall have procedures in place to ensure compliance with laws and regulations governing the possession, administration, and storage of emergency prescription medications needed by students at school or during school sponsored activities.

DEFINITION

“Health care professional” means a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. Chapters 23 and 33, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe drugs and medical devices pursuant to 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28, or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe drugs and medical devices pursuant to 26 V.S.A. Chapter 31.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The superintendent or designee will develop a procedure governing the possession, administration, and storage of emergency medication needed by any student during the regular school day or during school sponsored activities. The procedure will comply with the following:

1. In an emergency, epinephrine may be given by the school nurse, or a person designated and trained by the school nurse.²
2. In an emergency, medication may be given by the school nurse, or a person designated and trained by the school nurse, upon written orders from a medical provider, and upon written request or documented permission when written permission is not possible (i.e., a phone call) from a student’s parent or guardian that the School District comply with the medical provider’s order. The medical provider’s orders must detail the name of the drug, route of administration, dose, and the time interval the emergency medication is to be given, diagnosis and reason for giving.
3. Other than emergency medication authorized by the Commissioner of Health, medication must be brought to school in a container labeled by the pharmacy or medical provider and stored by the school nurse or designee in a secure storage place.
4. Students with life-threatening allergies or with asthma, whose parents or guardians have complied with all of the requirements outlined in 16 V.S.A. §1387, shall be permitted to possess and

¹ Act 175 of 2008, codified as 16 V.S.A. § 1387, requires that public and approved independent schools have procedures in place to ensure that students with life-threatening allergies or with asthma are permitted to possess and self administer emergency medication at school, on school grounds, at school sponsored activities, on school provided transportation, and during school related programs. The Act does not require the adoption of a school board policy. This model is intended to provide guidance to school boards and administrators who choose to revise current policies on emergency medication or who wish to adopt new board policies on this subject.

² See, 16 V.S.A. § 1388 Stock supply and emergency administration of epinephrine auto-injectors

self-administer emergency medication at school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, on school-provided transportation, and during school-related programs.³

The school shall:

1. Provide an opportunity for communication with the pupil, parent or guardian, and medical provider regarding the efficacy of the emergency medication administered during school hours.
2. In the case of emergency medication possessed by students with life-threatening allergies or with asthma, the school shall provide forms for parents to submit authorizing possession of the emergency medication and releasing the school from liability as a result of any injury arising from the student's self-administration of the emergency medication.

Date Warned: 04/04/2025

Date Adopted: 04/07/2025

Legal Reference: 16 V.S.A. §1387 (Possession and self-administration of emergency medication)
16 V.S.A. §1388 (Stock supply and emergency administration of epinephrine auto-injectors)
26 V.S.A. chapters 23, 26, 28, 31, 33

Cross Reference: Student Alcohol and Drugs
Wellness & Comprehensive Health

³ See, 16 V.S.A. § 1387(b). Parents must provide annual written authorization and documentation from the student's physician as to the need for emergency medication. Parents must also annually develop, in consultation with the school nurse or designee, a plan of action for the school and student to follow when possessing emergency medication, and must sign a statement releasing the school and its agents from liability as a result of any injury arising from the student's self-administration of the emergency medication.