

V. Students

A. Administrative Policies

7. Medications in Schools

1. Except in the case of an allergic emergency occurring with a previously identified student, only certified nurse-teachers or a student's parents are authorized to dispense medications to students in school.
2. In no instance can a parent or legal guardian delegate to another person -- neighbor, relative, friend -- the authority to come into the school to administer medicine.
3. With the exception of emergency medications, no elementary student is allowed to transport medication to and from school. All other medications must be transported to and from school for elementary students by the parent or other responsible adult. Emergency medications include those necessary to treat potentially life-threatening conditions and will be determined by the school medical director, school nurse, family physician, and the student's parent.
4. Prescription and non-prescription medication will be dispensed by the school nurse-teacher only when:
 - a. received by the school nurse-teacher in the original labeled container from the pharmacy;
 - b. is authorized in writing by the parent or legal guardian; and
 - c. is requested in writing by the attending physician (prescription medications).

The standard form for authorizing administration of medication will include the physician's recommendations for field trips and other off-campus activities.

5. Inhalers and epinephrine auto injectors may be self administered after a written plan is developed by the school nurse-teacher, family physician, parent or legal guardian, and student. This will be done on a case-by-case basis. All medications are to be stored in the school health clinic unless the written plan states otherwise.
6. When on a field trip or other off-campus activity, inhalers and epinephrine auto injectors should be carried by the teacher for safe keeping, unless the written plan states otherwise. Students may self-carry and/or self-administer other prescription medications on a field trip or other off-campus activity only when a written plan is developed and signed by the attending physician, parent or legal guardian, student, and school nurse-teacher. The administration will be informed of any such plans. Medications for field trips and other off-campus activities must be provided by the parent or legal guardian from home in an original pharmacy labeled container. Only a one (1) day supply of medication may be self-carried and/or self-administered. The student is prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way diverting his/her own medication to any other person. The student will have a copy of the written agreement for the activity.

Medications in Schools (continued)

7. Any student found violating the terms of the written agreement to self-carry and/or self-administer medication will forfeit all rights to such an agreement and may be subject to school disciplinary procedures.
8. In a life-threatening emergency, trained school personnel are authorized to administer epinephrine auto injectors as provided by the “Good Samaritan” statute. This statute insulates any person who voluntarily and gratuitously renders emergency assistance from liability for civil damages unless the Samaritan is guilty of “gross negligence or wanton conduct”. RIGL 9-1-27-1.

References: Title 16-21-7 of the General Laws of Rhode Island
Title 9-1-27 of the General Laws of Rhode Island
Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs, Amended December 1999

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Narragansett School System
Narragansett, Rhode Island