

STUDENTS

Medication at School

For the purpose of this policy, “medication” is defined as any prescribed or non-prescribed medication, including over-the-counter (OTC) items, vitamins, homeopathic remedies, creams, and/or oils to be administered at school. Under normal circumstances, all student medications, both prescription and OTC, should be administered before or after school hours under the supervision of the parent/guardian.

When it is necessary for a student to receive oral or topical medication, eye drops, ear drops, or nasal spray at school or at school-sponsored events, the parent/guardian must submit a written request accompanied by written authorization form from a licensed health care provider (LHCP), prescribing within the scope of their prescriptive authority. If the medication will be administered for more than fifteen (15) consecutive days, the LHCP must also provide written, current, and unexpired instructions for the administration of the medication.

OTC topical sunscreen products may be possessed and used by students without a written prescription or note from an LHCP.

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for required and proper:

- A. Designation of staff members who may administer medication to students;
- B. Training, delegation, and supervision of staff members in the administration of oral medication, topical medication, eye drops, ear drops, and/or nasal spray of any nature per [RCW 28A.210.260](#) to students by a registered nurse (RN);
- C. Obtaining signed and dated parent/guardian and LHCP requests and authorization for the administration of medications, including instructions from the LHCP if the medication is to be given for more than fifteen (15) days;
- D. Transporting medications to and from school;
- E. Storing medication in a locked or limited access area;
- F. Labeling medication;
- G. Administration of medication, including identification of student and medication;
- H. Documenting administration of medication, including errors, reactions, or side effects;
- I. Disposing of medications;
- J. Maintaining records pertaining to the administration of medication;
- K. Maintaining student confidentiality;
- L. Permitting, as appropriate, possession and self-administration of medications necessary for student school attendance as indicated in the parent’s/guardian’s written authorization and the written instructions from a LHCP prescribing within the scope of their prescriptive authority;

- M. Permitting possession and self-administration of OTC topical sunscreen products;
- N. Reviewing and evaluating medication practices and documentation; and
- M. Discontinuance of the administration of medication.

Nasal spray medications that are a legend drug or a controlled substance, or injected medications may not be administered by school staff other than RNs or licensed practical nurses (LPNs) except as allowed by [Board Policy 3409](#) and [Procedure 3409P](#), Students with Diabetes, Life-Threatening Allergies, Asthma and Seizures.

Except for limited situations, no school staff other than an RN or LPN may administer suppositories, rectal gels, or injections (except for emergency injections for students with anaphylaxis, as stated in [Board Policy 3409](#) and [Procedure 3409P](#), Students with Diabetes, Life-Threatening Allergies, Asthma and Seizures. In some situations, a parent designated adult (PDA) may administer certain injections.

Medical Marijuana

Washington State law [RCW 69.51A.060](#) and [RCW 69.51.A.225](#) permit the use of certain medical marijuana products in schools under specific circumstances, provided that the district has adopted a policy at the request of a parent/guardian of a student meeting certain legal requirements, and provided that only the parent/guardian may administer such products. However, federal law (Title IV-Part A—Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities and the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) ([21 U.S.C. § 811](#))) continues to prohibit the possession and use of marijuana on the premises of recipients of Federal funds including educational institutions. Therefore, no student may possess marijuana or marijuana products in schools, district buildings, other district property or in district vehicles. In addition, school nurses may not administer medical marijuana.

Cross references:	Board Policy 2151	Interscholastic Athletics/Activities
	Board Policy 2210	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
	Board Policy 2211	Education of Students with Disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
	Board Policy 3409	Students with Diabetes and Life-Threatening Allergies, Asthma and Seizures
	Board Policy 3410	Student Health
	Procedure 3416P	Medication at School
	Board Policy 4205	Use of Tobacco, Nicotine Products and Delivery Devices

Legal references: [Chapter 18.71 RCW](#)
[Chapter 18.79 RCW](#)
[RCW 18.79.260](#)

[RCW 28A.210.260](#)

[RCW 28A.210.270](#)

[RCW 28A.210.278](#)

[RCW 28A.210.320](#)

[RCW 28A.210.325](#)

[RCW 69.51A.225](#)

[WAC 246-840-700](#)

Physicians
Nursing Care
Registered nurse—Activities allowed—
Delegation of tasks
Public and private schools—Administration
of medication—Conditions
Public and private schools—Administration
of medication—Immunity from liability—
Discontinuance, procedure
Topical sunscreen products—Sun safety
guidelines
Children with life-threatening health
conditions—Medication or treatment
orders—Rules
Medical use of marijuana-infused
products—Administration by parent or
guardian—School districts to develop
policies
Students who qualify for the medical use of
marijuana—Consumption of marijuana-
infused products on school grounds
Standards of nursing conduct or practice

Adopted: November 21, 1989
Revised: December 30, 1991
Revised: January 12, 1998
Revised: February 26, 2002
Updated: January 2012
Revised: June 10, 2014
Updated: September 2016
Updated: March 2017
Revised: September 26, 2017
Updated: February 2018
Revised: January 22, 2019
Updated: December 2019
Revised: February 11, 2020