

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 210.1
SECTION: 200 Pupils
TITLE: Possession/Use of Emergency Medications
ADOPTED: August 24, 2011
REVISED: January 25, 2024

210.1 POSSESSION/USE OF EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to providing safe, welcoming, and healthy learning environments in all School District of Philadelphia (“District”) schools. The purpose of this Policy is to guide District staff, parents/guardians, and students about the administration of emergency medications (including, but not be limited to asthma inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors, prolonged seizure nasal spray and other medication prescribed to immediately treat or respond to a student’s acute medical condition in an emergency) during school time.

Definitions

Self-administration: A student’s use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.

Authority

Pursuant to Pennsylvania law, the Board may enact policy and procedures regarding the emergency administration of medication, medical technology, and treatment of students during school hours or during school related activities. Furthermore, the Board shall permit students to possess asthma inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors, and other emergency medications and to self-administer the prescribed medication.[1][2]

In the event of an emergency, any District employee may administer emergency care, first aid, or rescue when they believe, in good faith, that a student needs emergency care, first aid, or rescue.[3]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Student Health Services, to develop Administrative Procedures for student possession and self-administration of emergency medication, including, but not limited to, asthma inhalers, and epinephrine auto-injectors.

The District shall annually inform staff, students, and parents/guardians of this Policy and its Administrative Procedures.

The certified school nurse shall develop an individualized healthcare plan for each student prescribed emergency medication from a licensed prescriber, which shall include an emergency care plan component. A student’s individualized healthcare plan neither replaces nor necessarily requires other individualized plans for accessing the education program, including an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan. [2]

Legal References:

1. 24 P.S. §1414.1
2. [Policy 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students](#)
3. 42 Pa. C.S. §8337.1

Administrative Procedures:

Policy 210.1 Administrative Procedures