

LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Denise Cleary
Interim Superintendent

SCHOOL MEDICATION POLICY

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Policy of the Linden Board of Education regarding the administration of medication in school is:

The board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of pupil illness. The administration of medication to a pupil during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the pupil, or the pupil would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available to him/her during school hours.

For purposes of this policy, "medication" shall include all medicines prescribed by a physician for the particular pupil, including emergency medication in the event of bee stings, etc., and all non-prescription "over the counter" medication.

Before any medication may be administered to or by any pupil during school hours, the board shall require the written request of the parent/guardian which shall give permission for such administration and relieve the board and its employees of liability for administration of medication. In addition, the board requires the written order of the prescribing physician which shall include:

- A. The purpose of the medication;
- B. The dosage;
- C. The time at which or the special circumstances under which medication shall be administered;
- D. The length of time for which medication is prescribed;
- E. The possible side effects of the medication.

Both documents shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

The district medical inspector has developed the following procedures for the administration of medication:

- A. All medications, whether prescribed or "over the counter", shall be administered by the medical inspector, school nurse or substitute school nurse, the parent/guardian or the pupil himself/herself where the parent/guardian so permits and with the school nurse present;

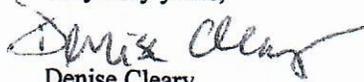
- B. Medications shall be securely stored and kept in the original labeled container;
- C. The school nurse shall maintain a record of the name of the pupil to whom medication may be administered, the prescribing physician, the dosage and timing of medication and a notation of each instance of administration;
- D. All medications shall be brought to school by the parent/guardian or adult pupil and shall be picked up at the end of the school year or the end of the period of medication, whichever is earlier;
- E. A student may self-administer medication without supervision of the school nurse for asthma or other life-threatening illnesses. "Life-threatening illness" has been defined as an illness or condition that requires an immediate response to specific symptoms or sequelae that if left untreated may lead to potential loss of life such as, but not limited to, the use of an inhaler to treat an asthma attack or the use of an adrenalin injection to treat a potential anaphylactic reaction.

PUPIL SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

The board shall permit self-administration of medication for asthma or other potentially life-threatening illnesses by pupils who have the capability for self-administration of medication, both on school premises during regular school hours and off-site or after regular school hours when a pupil is participating in field trips or extracurricular activities. Parents/guardians of the pupil must meet the following conditions:

- A. Provide the board with written authorization for the pupil's self-administration of medication;
- B. Provide written certification from the pupil's physician that the pupil has asthma or another potentially life-threatening illness and is capable of and has been instructed in the proper method of self-administration of medication;
- C. Sign a statement acknowledging that the district shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the pupil and that the parents/guardians shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or agents against any claims arising out of the self-administration of medication by the pupil;
- D. Maintain the right to revoke a pupil's permission to self-medicate if he/she has failed to comply with all conditions of this policy and/or has violated in any way the tenets of the agreement to self-medicate. The superintendent shall confer with the school physician and school nurse prior to recommending termination of a pupil's permission to self-medicate and shall also consult with the pupil, the pupil's parents/guardians and the pupil's physician;
- E. The permission is effective for the school year for which it is granted and must be renewed for each subsequent school year.

Very truly yours,



Denise Cleary
Interim Superintendent