

LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: 210.1

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS
AND EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS

ADOPTED: June 18, 2018

210.1 POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS AND EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS

Authority

The Board shall permit students to carry/possess asthma inhalers and auto-injectors to self-administer the prescribed medication for treatment when such is doctor prescribed and parent/guardian authorized.

Possession and use of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors by students shall be in accordance with state law and Board policy.¹

Definitions

Asthma inhaler shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to treat an acute asthma attack.²

Epinephrine auto-injector shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, epinephrine to treat an acute allergic reaction.

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

Guidelines

Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector during school hours, the School District shall require the following:³

¹ 24 P.S. 1414.1.

² 24 P.S. 1401.

³ 24. P.S. 1414.1; 22 Pa. Code. 12.41.

1. A written request from the parent/guardian that the school complies with the order of the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.
2. A statement from the parent/guardian acknowledging that the school is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the district and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication.
3. A Medication Permission Form signed by the student's physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant that states
 - a. The name of the drug.
 - b. The prescribed dose.
 - c. The times the medication is to be taken.
 - d. The length of time the medication is prescribed.
 - e. The reason the medication is needed, unless the reason should remain confidential.
 - f. The side effects of the medication.
 - g. Emergency response.
 - h. If student/child is qualified and able to self-administer the prescribed medication.

The student shall be made aware that the asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector is intended for his/her use only and may not be shared with other students.

The student shall notify the school nurse immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector.

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in immediate confiscation of the asthma inhaler, epinephrine auto-injector and medication and loss of privileges.

The district reserves the right to require a statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period. Permission for possession and use of an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector by a student shall be effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.⁴

⁴ 24 P.S. 1401.

A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector and self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the capability for self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication.⁵

To self-administer medication, the student must be able to:

1. Respond to and visually recognize his/her name.
2. Identify his/her medication.
3. Demonstrate the proper technique for self-administering medication.
4. Sign his/her medication sheet to acknowledge having taken the medication.
5. Demonstrate a cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration.

The Medication Permission Form shall be kept on file in the nurse's office. A new Permission Form must be completed for each school year.

The school entity bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken and is not responsible if the inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector is lost or damaged while in the possession of the student.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with the school nurse(s), shall develop procedures for student possession of asthma inhalers or epinephrine auto-injectors and self-administration of prescribed medications.

The School District shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the policy and procedures governing student possession and use of asthma inhalers or epinephrine auto-injectors. Notice shall appear in the Code of Student Conduct Booklet and the district's website.⁶

When an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector is initially brought to school by a student, the parent/guardian and school nurse shall be responsible to complete the following:

⁵ 24 P.S. 1414.1.

⁶ 24 P.S. 1414.1; 24 P.S. 504.

1. Obtain the required written request and statements from the parent/guardian and physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, which shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.
2. Review pertinent information with the student and/or parent/guardian, specifically the information contained on the statement submitted by the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
3. Based on age, cognitive function and/or maturity, determine the student's ability to self-administer medication and the need for care and supervision.
4. Maintain an individual medication log for all students possessing asthma inhalers or epinephrine auto-injectors.
5. Maintain provisions regarding storage of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors when a student is not permitted to self-carry the medication.