

## ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS TO STUDENTS

### Definitions

*Medications* – For the purposes of this policy, medications include prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs, including herbal preparations and vitamins. Medications also include substances that claim or purport to be medicinal or performance enhancing.

*Authorized Prescriber* – Includes a health care provider licensed or otherwise authorized by state law to prescribe medication.

### General

The Republic R-III School District is not legally obligated to administer medication to students unless specifically included in a Section 504 Accommodation Plan or an Individualized Education Program (IEP). However, the Board recognizes that some students may require medication for chronic or short-term illness to enable them to remain in school and participate in the district's educational services. Further, the district prohibits students from possessing or self-administering medications while on district grounds, on district transportation or during district activities unless explicitly authorized in accordance with this policy. Therefore, the superintendent, in collaboration with the district nursing staff, will establish administrative procedures for storing and administering medications in compliance with this policy and pursuant to state and federal law. Medications will only be administered at school when it is not possible or not effective for the student to receive the medication at home.

The administration of medications is a nursing activity that must be performed by or under the supervision of a registered professional nurse. A registered professional nurse may delegate the administration of medication to a licensed practical nurse or unlicensed personnel who are trained by the nurse to administer medications. The registered professional nurse is responsible for developing written procedures for training unlicensed personnel in the administration of medications and for supervising the administration of medication by others. The nurse or designee must maintain thorough documentation of all medications administered to students.

Nurses must use reasonable and prudent judgment to determine whether to administer particular medications to students while also working in collaboration with parents/guardians and school administration. In carrying out their legal duty to protect the health, welfare and safety of students, nurses will, when necessary, clarify authorized prescriber orders and respond in accordance with such clarifications.

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The district shall not knowingly administer medications in an amount exceeding the recommended daily dosage listed in the *Physician's Desk Reference (PDR)* or other recognized medical or pharmaceutical text. The district will not administer the first dose of any medication. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to arrange to administer prescription medications themselves when possible.

### **Over-the-Counter Medications**

The district may administer over-the-counter medication to a student upon receipt of a written request and permission to do so by a parent/guardian. All over-the-counter medications must be delivered to the school principal or designee in the manufacturer's original packaging and will only be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

### **Prescription Medications**

The parent/guardian must provide the district with written permission to administer the medication before the district will administer the prescription medication to the student. The prescription label will be considered the equivalent of a prescriber's written direction, and a separate document is not needed.

### **Self-Administered Medications**

An authorized prescriber or a student's IEP or 504 team may recommend that an individual student with a chronic health condition assume responsibility for his or her own medication as part of learning self-care. The district will allow students to self-administer medication for the treatment of asthma and anaphylaxis in accordance with this policy and law. The district may allow students to self-administer other medications in accordance with law. The district will not allow any student to self-administer medications unless:

1. The medication was prescribed or ordered by the student's physician.
2. The physician has provided a written treatment plan for the condition for which the medication was prescribed or authorized that includes a certification that the student is capable of and has been instructed in the correct and responsible use of the medication and has demonstrated to the physician or the physician's designee the skill level necessary to use the medication.
3. The student has demonstrated proper self-administration technique to the school nurse.

4. The student's parents have signed a statement authorizing self-administration and acknowledging that the district and its employees or agents will incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of such medication unless such injury is a result of negligence on the part of the district or its employees or agents.

### **Possession of Self-Administered Medications**

An authorized prescriber may recommend that an individual student with a chronic health condition be allowed to be in possession of his or her medication on district property for the purposes of self-administration. The district will permit possession of medication for the treatment of asthma or anaphylaxis on district property, at district-sponsored activities and in transit to and from school or activities in accordance with law. The district will also permit the possession of other medications for the purposes of self-administration as required by the student's 504 plan or IEP. The district may otherwise permit the possession of medications for self-administration in accordance with law. No student will be permitted to possess any medication unless the parent/guardian has submitted all required authorizations and releases in accordance with this policy.

### **Emergency Medication**

All student-occupied buildings in this district are equipped with prefilled epinephrine auto syringes that can be administered by the school nurse or trained designee when that person believes, based on his or her training, that a student is having a life threatening anaphylactic reaction. Epinephrine will only be administered in accordance with written protocols provided by an authorized prescriber. The Board will purchase an adequate number of prefilled epinephrine auto syringes based on the recommendation of the school nurse, who will be responsible for maintaining an adequate supply. The school principal will maintain a list of students who cannot, according to their parents/guardians, receive epinephrine. A current copy of the list will be kept with the devices at all times.

### **Consequences**

Students who possess or consume medications in violation of this policy while on district grounds, on district transportation or during a district activity may be disciplined up to and including suspension or expulsion. Employees who violate this policy may be disciplined up to and including termination. District administrators will notify law enforcement when they believe a crime has occurred.

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***Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.***

Adopted: 12/15/1997

Revised: 10/18/1999; 03/16/2006; 01/15/2007

Cross Refs: EBB, Communicable Diseases  
EBBA, Illness and Injury Response and Prevention

Legal Refs: §§ 167.627, .630, 335.016, .066, 338.059, 577.625, .628, RSMo.  
*Davis v. Francis Howell Sch. Dist.*, 138 F.3d 754 (8th Cir. 1998)  
*DeBord v. Board of Educ. of Ferguson-Florissant Sch. Dist.*, 126 F.3d 1102 (8th Cir. 1997)

Republic R-III School District, Republic, Missouri