

SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: USE OF MEDICATION

ADOPTED: January 25, 1985

REVISED: December 19, 2002

210. USE OF MEDICATION	
1. Purpose	The Souderton Area School District recognizes that parents have the primary responsibility of the health of their children. The Board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. Although the District strongly recommends that medication be given in the home, it realizes that the health of some children require that they receive medication while in school.
2. Definitions	<p>For the purpose of this policy, non-prescription medication shall include, but not be limited to, over-the-counter (OTC) medications such as Tylenol, Benadryl, Sudafed, decongestants, antihistamines, etc.</p> <p>For the purpose of this policy, alternative medication shall include but not be limited to medications considered to be herbal, nutritional, and/or homeopathic. Alternative medications will not be dispensed by nursing personnel during school hours, unless accompanied by specific written instruction from a licensed physician and written permission from parents, which expressly allows dispensing and allows the nurse to discuss the matter with the prescribing physician. Nothing herein prohibits parents from administering such medications to their child or children at school.</p>
3. Guidelines	<p>Parents should be made aware of the problems associated with giving medications in school and arrange for medication to be administered before and/or after school hours whenever possible.</p> <p>If in order to maintain sufficient health to participate in the school program, a student must be given medication during school hours, then the following guidelines should be adhered to:</p> <p><u>Procedure</u></p>
Title 22 Sec. 7.13	All medications, prescription or non-prescription, that are to be dispensed during school hours must be accompanied by a written authorization signed by the doctor and/or parent/guardian and brought to the nurse's office or other designated place where the medication will be secured by a responsible person.

Controlled medication must be accompanied by a written doctor's order and parent permission specifically stating medication may be administered at school.

Medications must be in the original container if OTC, or in a properly labeled prescription container (with name of drug, dosage, route of administration, and time interval of dose). Prescriptions must include the student's name, and name of the prescribing licensed health care provider.

Prior to securing the medication, the person shall log the name and dosage of the medication, the amount (or place a mark on the container), the time, and the student's name. The log shall subsequently indicate each administration and amount given. Students shall not be permitted to keep medications with them or in their control, excepting only those circumstances expressly directed otherwise by a licensed medical doctor, for example, when the nature of the student's medical condition requires instant access to the medication. For long-term medication, a written re-authorization by parent and prescribing physician will be required to be updated at the beginning of the school year. The role of the nurse is to ascertain whether authorization is complete and to administer the medication whenever feasible. The nurse shall also have access to current reliable information regarding safe use of the medications, including side effects and toxicity, drug interactions, and expected outcomes.

In the event of the unavailability of a licensed nurse, the principal may delegate the supervision of student self-administration of medication when the following are fulfilled:

1. A written permission form and release from parent for the student to self-administer medication has been obtained.
2. In the event of a controlled substance, a physician's order that indicates student's name, medication, time to be given, and any other medical direction has been obtained.

Once written parent permission is obtained, as well as a physician's order in the event of a controlled substance, the designated supervisor will follow the established guidelines for student self-administration of the medication. The designated supervisor will:

1. Assess right student, right medication, right time and right route of self-administration.
2. Remind student to take medication.

3. Provide necessary equipment (i.e., cup and water).
4. Open the locked cabinet or other secure holding place, for example, an attaché case during a field trip.
5. Place the container of medication in close proximity to student.
6. Observe the student taking the proper dosage.
7. Oversee student's documentation that s/he self-administered medication.

Hold Harmless Policy

The Souderton Area School District, in consideration of dispensation of medications by the nurses and duly authorized agents of the Board who are employed by said District, hereby covenants and agrees to hold harmless and indemnify all such nurses, and duly authorized agents of the Board against any and all claims, damages, expenses, attorney's fees, suits, causes of action in law or equity or any place whatsoever that may be brought against any such nurses and duly authorized agents of the Board because of any negligent act or omission in connection with said dispensation of prescription drugs, excepting acts of gross negligence or intentional conduct. The term of this policy shall begin on the date executed and continue until specifically revoked.

A copy of this policy will be provided to parent upon request.