

Medication Information from the Alabama Department of Education

Some changes have taken place concerning administering medications to students in Alabama schools. These changes are a result of collaborations between the State Department of Education, Department of Health, Alabama Association of School Nurses, and the Attorney General. The focus of these changes is to make sure the students are safe in receiving medications at school. The changes are in effect immediately for Alabama Schools.

Students should never have any medications in purses, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. The only exception is emergency medications such as asthma inhalers, epi pens, etc. prescribed and documented by the student's physician. Failure to comply with this policy could result in suspension, alternative school placement, or expulsion.

In order for the school nurse to administer medications during school hours or on field trips, you must follow the guidelines below.

1. All medications must be provided and delivered by the parent or guardian to the school nurse/health room. This includes prescription and over the counter medications such as Tylenol, Advil, cortisone creams, triple antibiotic ointments and/or creams, Benadryl, cough medicines, etc. **Students should never have any medications in purses, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. See exception above.**
2. All medications must be in the original **un-opened** container from the manufacturer or pharmacy, labeled with student's name, medication name, dose of medication, times to be administered, pharmacy name, prescriber's name and current date.
3. **All Prescription medications, natural remedies, herbs, oils and nutritional supplements to be given at school require written authorization from the parent and the health care provider (Physician, Dentist, Chiropractor, Optometrist, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Physician's Assistant or Certified Midwife).**
4. **All over the counter medications to be given at school for longer than 10 consecutive days require written authorization from the parent and the health care provider (physician, dentist, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant).** This authorization must be renewed each new school year and does not carry over from one year to the next. The authorization expires July 1 each year.
5. **Temporary over the counter medication** FDA regulated Non-prescription medication that will start and finish within 10 calendar days from the date the form and medication are received does not require the physician's signature. However, the parents must still submit the form entitled School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization. Any medication remaining in the health room over 2 weeks past the 10 day period without a physician's signature will be discarded.
6. **All medications must be given by a licensed nurse employed by the School, or a medication assistant who has successfully completed a course curriculum and is registered with the Alabama Board of Nursing.**
7. All Controlled medications must be counted upon receipt / return to parent. Parent and adult counting signatures are required at time of the count
8. **School Medication Prescriber/ Parent Authorization** forms may be faxed to us. Contact your school to verify the best fax number for the health room.