

Distribution and Use of Medication

As a result of the growing safety concerns surrounding the usage of medications in Alabama's school aged youth and children, the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Board of Nursing, and Alabama's laws are now requiring that the regulations of school medication are a shared responsibility for the school principal and the registered nurse. This regulation is to facilitate improved student health and overall school and medication safety.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

1. Most medications may be given at home either before or after school. Students with occasional headaches, cramps, or minor ailments may call their parent for medication, if necessary.

2. If your child needs any type of medication for the treatment of a chronic health condition during school or school sponsored event you must complete a **School Medication Prescriber / Parent Authorization form**. This regulation includes medication patches. (Alabama State Dept. Form A 2007)

-SECTION 1 - Student information – name, school, grade, teacher, school year, date of birth, height, and weight

-SECTION 2 - Prescribing physician – to be completed by the physician with instructions for use and authorization

-SECTION 3 - Parent acknowledgement – signatures of parent allowing the school nurse and any designee of the school nurse to assist the student with the medication and to communicate with the physician.

-SECTION 4 – Parental authorization for self-administration

3. **ALL** medications indicated for students with chronic health conditions are to be provided to the school by the parent and must be kept in accordance to school policy. **Medications, both prescription and non-prescription, must be in the original container and properly labeled with expiration dates.**

4. Alabama law (Code of Alabama HB 463-2007) allows for students with **chronic health issues** to self-administer medications upon completion of the following:

a. (1) **ONLY AFTER** the forms have been completed by both physician and parent and reviewed by the school nurse

b. (2) Forms are provided, along with the properly labeled medication, to school nurse

c. (3) The school nurse meets with and regularly counsels student regarding medication safety, including what to do if medication is lost, stolen, or does not relieve symptoms. For any questions, please contact the school nurse. Students are not allowed to carry or self-medicate with any medication unless this process is completed. This includes over the counter medications as well as prescription medications.

5. **Absolutely, under no circumstance, is it permissible for students to carry, transport, or self-administer controlled substances.**

6. **Students found to have medication without the proper authorization are subject to school discipline including suspension , expulsion, or arrest in accordance to student handbook.**

7. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school, **in writing**, of any changes in pertinent information.

8. A medication log is maintained for each student receiving assistance with medication in accordance to Alabama law.

9. The school nurse may instruct student on medication use, safety, disease processes, and will establish an Individualized Plan of Care to communicate the health needs of your student to teachers and administrators.

Jim Pearson School Nurse 256-234-8625
Stephens Elementary School Nurse 256-234-8631
Radney Elementary School Nurse 256-234-8636
Alexander City Middle School 256-234-8660
Benjamin Russell High School 256-234-8611

