

Sec. 1. STANDARDS FOR ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

All medications administered to students shall be FDA-approved pharmaceuticals administered within their approved dosage and within standards of acceptable medical regimen. Research pharmaceuticals may be administered if they are a part of a University Institutional Review Board-approved protocol. Intravenous (IV) medications and treatments shall not be administered by Life School personnel.

Sec. 2. AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL

Life School employees shall not give any student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, or dietary supplements of any type, except as provided below. Employees authorized by the Superintendent may administer to students:

a) *Administering Prescription Medication*

Prescription medication upon written request to administer the medication from the student's parent, guardian, or other person having legal control of the student. When administering prescription medication, the medication must be administered either:

1. From a container that appears to be from the original container and properly labeled; or
2. From a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse from a container that appears to be the original container and to be properly labeled.

All prescription medications shall have been prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States. All medications shall have been manufactured in the United States.

Texas Department of State Health Services Guide to Medication Administration in the School Setting

b) *Medication Administered on Emergency Basis*

Life School may purchase certain medications to administer to students on an emergency basis and in accordance with protocols established by the District Nurse and/or any standing orders issued by a separate medical adviser who is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Texas.

The Superintendent shall designate the employees who are authorized to administer medication under these protocols and permissions.

i. *Epinephrine*

The Board authorizes school personnel who have agreed in writing and been adequately trained to administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with law and this policy.

Administration of epinephrine shall only be permitted when an authorized and trained individual reasonably believes a person is experiencing anaphylaxis.

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector at any time to an individual experiencing anaphylaxis at a Life School facility.

Life School shall ensure that each campus has a sufficient number of authorized individuals trained to administer epinephrine so that at least one trained individual is present on a Life School campus during all hours the campus is open. A Life School campus shall be considered “open” during regular on-campus school hours and when school personnel are physically on site for a Life School hosted, school-sponsored event taking place at a Life School campus.

The Superintendent shall designate a coordinator to manage policy implementation; this coordinator shall develop administrative regulations that shall address:

- Annual training of authorized individuals in accordance with law;
- Procedures for auto-injector use; and
- Acquisition or purchase, maintenance, expiration, disposal, and availability of unassigned epinephrine auto-injectors at each campus.

Life School shall provide notice to parents regarding the epinephrine program, including notice of any change to or discontinuation of this program. Parental consent is not required for the administration of an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector on an emergency basis under this policy, but a parent or guardian may provide written notice to a campus principal or designee if conditions exist in which their child should not receive medication from an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector at school.

ii. *Opioid Antagonist Medication*

The Board authorizes school personnel who have agreed in writing and been adequately trained to administer an Opioid Antagonist Medication, such as Naloxone, to assist a person in grades 7-12 who is reasonably believed to be experiencing an opioid-related overdose. Authorized personnel may administer this medication in accordance with a standing order and/or procedures provided and/or approved by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Texas. The employee shall promptly seek additional medical assistance for the person to whom the medication is administered.

Authorized personnel may administer an opioid antagonist medication at a Life School hosted, school-sponsored event taking place on a Life School campus in accordance with this Policy and applicable administrative regulations.

Before designated and trained Life School employees may have custody of or administer an opioid antagonist medication under this policy, the employee must successfully complete an annual training program provided by Life School, which includes recognizing opioid-related overdoses, administering opioid antagonist medication, and promptly seeking medical attention for suspected drug overdoses. A list of employees who successfully complete such training shall be maintained, updated, and kept in the Central Office.

Life School shall provide authorized personnel with the opportunity to complete such training during their regular work schedule.

Opioid antagonist medication shall be stored in secure locations accessible by designated and trained employees, and in accordance with the drug manufacturer's instructions. Opioid antagonist medication shall be made readily available to designated employees who have completed the required training to administer in the event of suspected drug overdose. All designated and properly trained employees shall be made aware of the exact location of the opioid antagonist medication.

The District Nurse or designee shall regularly inventory and verify opioid antagonist medication supply, and maintain records thereof, in accordance with the established internal procedures and manufacturer recommendations. Expired, damaged, or used opioid antagonist medication shall be disposed of in accordance with established medical waste disposal procedures.

Life School shall consider the administration of opioid antagonist medication by a properly trained employee under this policy to be acting in the course and scope of his or her employment, and therefore entitled to defense by Life School, if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The designated and trained employee did not act with the intent to harm or with reckless indifference to a substantial risk of harm in administering opioid antagonist medication to an individual;
2. The designated and trained employee successfully completed all training contemplated by this policy;
3. The designated and trained employee administering the opioid antagonist medication promptly sought additional medical assistance; and
4. The designated and trained employee is administering opioid antagonist medication pursuant to this policy.

Life School shall provide notice to parents regarding the opioid antagonist medication program, including notice of any change to or discontinuation of this program. Parental consent is not required for the administration of an opioid antagonist medication on an emergency basis under this policy, but a parent or guardian may provide written notice to a campus principal or designee if conditions exist in which their child should not receive opioid antagonist medication at school.

c) *Purchase of Non-Assigned Emergency Medication*

The Board authorizes purchase of Epinephrine and Opioid Antagonist Medication for use in a manner consistent with this policy and determines that such purchases are necessary in the conduct of the public school.

d) *Administering Nonprescription Medication*

iii. Nonprescription Medication Administered upon Parent Request

When properly labeled and in the original container; nonprescription medication may be administered by authorized Life School personnel upon a parent’s written request, or if required by the individualized education program (“IEP”) or Section 504 plan of a student with disabilities.

iv. Nonprescription Medication Administered on Emergency Basis

Authorized Life School personnel may administer nonprescription medication on an emergency basis and consistent with protocols established by the District Nurse.

Parental consent is not required for the administration of nonprescription medication on an emergency basis under this policy, but a parent or guardian may provide written notice to a campus principal or designee if conditions exist in which their child should not receive nonprescription medication at school.

e) *Herbal Substances or Dietary Supplements*

Herbal substances or dietary supplements may be administered by authorized Life School personnel **only if** required by the IEP or Section 504 plan of a student with disabilities.

f) *Provision of Medication Off-Campus at School-Sponsored Events*

For any Life School student attending a field trip or off-campus school-sponsored event, any prescription medication that Life School is required to administer under this policy shall be sent with the student’s teacher or another staff member trained in the proper administration of medication and who has been authorized to administer medication by the Superintendent and/or the Nurse, along with instructions on the administration of the medication.

In addition to trained and authorized Life School teacher(s) and/or nurse(s), a licensed physician in Texas, a registered nurse licensed in Texas, or a vocational nurse licensed in Texas may serve as a Life School volunteer to administer prescription and non-prescription medication in accordance with this policy when on field trips and/or off-campus or on school-sponsored events. Prior to being allowed to do so, such individuals must meet with the school nurse for instruction and training on administration of medication for applicable students.

Nonprescription medication(s) generally are not administered by Life School during field trips and/or off-campus or on school-sponsored events.

In the event of an emergency medical situation involving a Life School student for which no Life School employee was previously aware and that occurs during a field trip and/or during an off-campus, school-sponsored event when no school nurse is present, emergency medical services shall immediately be notified by any Life School employee in attendance.

a) *Administrative Regulations Required*

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to manage the implementation of this policy in accordance with law and best practices disseminated by medical professionals, law enforcement, state and federal health agencies, and other credible health organizations. The administrative regulations shall address administering the authorized medication, training requirements for authorized staff, the process for the acquisition or purchase of the authorized medication, and the maintenance, expiration, disposal, and availability of the authorized medication at each campus.

Sec. 3. PSYCHOTROPICS

Except as permitted by Education Code 38.016, a Life School employee shall not:

1. Recommend to a student, parent that the student use a psychotropic drug;
2. Suggest a particular diagnosis; or
3. Exclude the student from a class or a school-related activity because of the parent's refusal to consent to psychiatric evaluation or examination or treatment of the student.

Education Code 38.016.