

Berkshire Schools Medication Policy

The Board of Education and its employees are not responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of illness, or legally obligated to administer medication at school. The administration of medication at school will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, the student would not be able to attend school if the medication were not made available during school hours, or if the student is disabled and requires medication to benefit from his/her educational program.

Acutely ill students should be kept at home until they have sufficiently recovered. Alternatives to medication at school that parents can consider are dosing before and after school and coming to the school to administer the medication themselves.

Medications are kept in the school office. The building secretaries, principals and several teachers are all authorized to administer medications, under the supervision of the school nurse. With the exception of certain authorized emergency medications, students may not have medications in their possession on school property. It is a violation of school rules for a student to give medication to another student.

All medications must be in their **original container with the directions for use and the student's name clearly marked**. Parents or another adult should drop off the medication and forms in the school office.

There are three different medication administration forms.

1. Non-Prescription Medications- The form is completed by the parent. A doctor's order is no longer required. The above rules apply.
2. Prescription Medications- The form must be completed by both the parent and the prescribing physician. The above rules apply.
3. Emergency Medications (insulin, asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors)
The form must be completed by both the parents and the prescribing physician. There is also a contract that must be signed by the student. This form allows a student to carry and self-administer these emergency medications as needed. This privilege is extended to Jr/ Sr High School students only. Elementary students may sometimes be allowed to transport these medications to and from school in their backpack on request from the parent and physician, but may not carry them at school independently.

Any questions should be directed to the school nurse through the building secretaries.

Kathy Pinkava, RN, School Nurse
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