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**POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS/
EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS**

BOARD ADOPTED JUNE 17, 2024

**215 POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS/
EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS**

A. AUTHORITY

1. The Board shall permit students participating in Intermediate Unit programs to possess asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors and to self-administer the prescribed medication in compliance with state law and Board policy.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **Asthma Inhaler** shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to treat an acute asthma attack.
2. **Epinephrine Auto-Injector** shall mean a prescribed disposable drug delivery system designed for the self-administration of epinephrine to provide rapid first aid for persons suffering the effects of anaphylaxis.
3. **Self-Administration** shall mean a student's use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

C. GUIDELINES

1. Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector in the school setting, the Administration shall require the following:
 - a. A written request from the parent/guardian that the Intermediate Unit complies with the order of the licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
 - b. A written statement from the parent/guardian acknowledging that the Intermediate Unit is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the Intermediate Unit and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication.
 - c. A written statement from the licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant that states:
 - i. Name of the drug
 - ii. Prescribed dosage

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- 31 iii. Times medication is to be taken
- 32 iv. Length of time medication is prescribed
- 33 v. Diagnosis or reason medication is needed, unless confidential
- 34 vi. Potential serious reaction or side effects of medication
- 35 vii. Emergency response
- 36 viii.If student is qualified and able to self-administer the medication
- 37 2. The student shall notify the school nurse immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler or
- 38 epinephrine auto-injector.
- 39 3. The Intermediate Unit reserves the right to require a statement from the licensed physician, certified
- 40 registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for the continued use of a medication beyond
- 41 the specified time period.
- 42 4. A written request for student use of an asthma inhaler and/or epinephrine auto-injector shall be
- 43 submitted annually, along with required written statements from the parent/guardian and an updated
- 44 prescription.
- 45 5. Student health records shall be confidential and maintained in accordance with state and federal
- 46 laws and regulations.
- 47 6. A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an
- 48 asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector and to self-administer the prescribed medication in the
- 49 school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the competency for self-administration and
- 50 responsible behavior in use of the medication. Determination of competency for self-administration
- 51 shall be based on the student’s age, cognitive function, maturity and demonstration of responsible
- 52 behavior.
- 53 7. Students shall be prohibited from sharing, giving, selling, and using an asthma inhaler or
- 54 epinephrine auto-injector in any manner other than which it is prescribed during school hours, at
- 55 any time while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and during the time spent
- 56 traveling to and from school and school-sponsored activities. Violations of this policy shall result
- 57 in loss of privilege to self-carry the asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector and disciplinary
- 58 action in accordance with Board policy.
- 59 8. If the Intermediate Unit denies a student’s request to self-carry an asthma inhaler or epinephrine
- 60 auto-injector or the student has lost the privilege of self-carrying an asthma inhaler or epinephrine
- 61 auto-injector, the student’s prescribed medication shall be appropriately stored at a location in close

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62 proximity to the student. The student's classroom teachers shall be informed where the medication
63 is stored and the means to access the medication.

64 9. The Intermediate Unit shall distribute this policy as part of the Code of Student Conduct.

65 10. The Intermediate Unit shall post this policy on the Intermediate Unit's website, if available.

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D. DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

68 1. The Executive Director or designee, in conjunction with the school nurse(s), may develop
69 administrative regulations for student possession of asthma inhalers or epinephrine auto-injectors
70 and self-administration of prescribed medication.