

Administering Medication

The Ledyard Board of Education recognizes that allowing for the proper administration of authorized medications to individual students in the Ledyard Public Schools is an essential element of providing a healthy and safe learning environment.

Medications, including controlled drugs designated as such by the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection, shall be administered only when it is not possible to achieve the desired effects by home administration during other than school hours and only upon:

1. the written order of a licensed physician, a dentist, an optometrist, an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe medicine; and
2. the written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child.

Personnel Authorized to Administer Medications

Medications shall normally be administered by the School Medical Advisor (SMA), a school nurse or, in his/her absence, any other licensed nurse approved by the SMA.

In the absence of these medical personnel, the building Principal, a teacher designated in writing by the building Principal, or a licensed physical or occupational therapist or a licensed athletic trainer employed by the Ledyard Board of Education shall be permitted to administer authorized medications upon completion of training in the safe administration of medications and subsequent approval by the SMA.

In the absence of qualified medical personnel, a coach who has been properly trained and approved by the SMA may also administer authorized medications to students participating in intramural and interscholastic athletics but only while that person is actually working in the capacity as a coach.

The SMA and a school nurse may jointly approve a plan for and provide training and general supervision to an identified school paraprofessional to administer medication, including, but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death. A "cartridge injector" means an automatic pre-filled cartridge injector or similar automatic injection equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for emergency first aid response to allergic reactions. The approved medication administration plan also requires the written authorization of the student's parents or guardian and a written order from the student's physician, optometrist, APRN, or physician assistant licensed to prescribe medicine.

Parents or guardians shall be allowed to administer medications to their own children on school grounds or at school sponsored activities in a manner that is not disruptive to the other students and is in compliance with applicable state statutes and regulations.

No employee of the Board shall be required to administer medications unless such action is part of the employee's job description and the employee has received the necessary training and authorization.

No Board employee authorized and properly trained to administer medications under this policy and the attendant regulations shall be liable to the student or a parent or guardian of the student for civil damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions, which may constitute ordinary negligence, while administering authorized medication to the student. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence.

Self-Administration of Medications by Students

Students diagnosed with asthma or an allergic condition may carry and self-administer medication, including medicine administered through the use of an asthmatic inhaler or an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment, provided that:

1. a licensed physician, a dentist, an APRN, or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe medicine provides a written order for self-administration of the medication;
2. there is a written authorization for self-administration from the student's parent or guardian;
3. the school nurse has evaluated the situation and deemed it safe and appropriate; has documented this on the student's cumulative health record; and has developed a plan for general supervision of such self-medication;
4. the building administrator(s), appropriate teachers, and coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics in which the student participates are informed that the student is self-administering prescribed medication; and
5. such medication is transported to school and maintained under the student's control in the original container.

Ledyard High School students on overnight school-sponsored trips may be allowed to self-administer medications, with the exception of controlled drugs designated as such by the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection, with specific authorization by the school nurse.

Students are allowed to conduct self-testing of blood glucose levels provided the school nurse has received (1) the written authorization of the student's parents or guardian to allow self-testing and (2) the written order of the student's physician or APRN stating the need and the capability of the student to conduct such self-testing. Students approved to self-administer medication using a cartridge injector shall be allowed to carry the authorized cartridge injector while traveling in a vehicle used for school transportation.

Storage of Medications

Each school shall maintain the same records for medications stored in the school as are required of hospitals under the provisions of subsections (f) and (h) of CGS section 21a-254 and shall store such medications in the manner required by the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection.

Policy Review and Revision

The Superintendent, in consultation with the SMA and the Administrative Supervisor of Ledyard Regional Visiting Nurses Association (LRVNA), shall implement regulations in accordance with the guidance in this policy and applicable state statutes and regulations to provide for the safe administration of authorized medications to students within the Ledyard Public School system.

The Ledyard Board of Education, with the advice and assistance of the SMA and the Administrative Supervisor of LRVNA, shall review and revise this policy and attendant regulations as often as necessary but at least biennially.

The SMA shall document by letter the completion of his/her review and any recommended changes. The Superintendent shall retain the documentation of the SMA's completed review for a period of ten years. The SMA shall approve any revisions to this policy or the attendant regulations for administering medications.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-212. School nurses and nurse practitioners. Administration of medications by parents or guardians on school grounds. Criminal history records checks.

10-212a. Administration of medications in schools and at athletic events. Regulations. (as revised by Public Act 09-155)

10-220i. Transportation of students carrying cartridge injectors.

10-220j. Blood glucose self-testing by children. Guidelines.

21a-254. Designation of restricted drugs or substances by regulations.
Records required by chapter.

52-557b. "Good samaritan law". Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render.

Connecticut Regulations of State Agencies 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-7 (Administering Medications)

Policy Revised: August 17, 2011
Policy Revised: April 23, 2014

LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ledyard, Connecticut