



NASN Position Statement: Medication Administration in Schools

SUPPLEMENTED WITH WASHINGTON STATE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Summary of the National Association of School Nurses Medication Administration in Schools Position Statement

Adopted: 1993

Revised: Sept. 1997, June 2003, June 2011, Feb. 2017

It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) that the registered professional school nurse (hereinafter referred to as school nurse) be responsible for medication administration in the school setting, leading the development of written medication administration policies and procedures that focus on safe and efficient medication administration at school. Well-written policies and procedures will enable schools to fulfill their obligations to provide health-related services to all children, including those with special healthcare needs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (2004) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973) as amended through the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act [ADAA] in 2008.

The full NASN Position Statement on Medication Administration in Schools can be found by following this link: [Medication Administration in Schools](#)

Supplementary Information Specific to Washington State

The information provided through the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), governs the types of prescriptions acceptable in the school setting, tasks that can be delegated, and immunity from liability.

[RCW 18.79.260](#) **Registered Nurse, Activities Allowed, Delegation of Tasks** The Nursing Practice Act and Washington State Board of Pharmacy have provided information on the type of procedures that nurses are able to complete along with the types of licensed medical providers that are allowed to write acceptable prescriptions.

[RCW 28A.210.260](#) **Public and Private Schools, Administration of Medication, Conditions** States the type of medications that can be delegated by a Registered Nurse in the school district.

[RCW 28A.210.270](#) **Public and Private Schools Administration of Medication, Immunity from Liability** States that a school employee administering medication in compliance with the prescription, and is a delegated task then that employee shall not be held liable for

complications from medication administration.

[RCW 28A.210.275](#) **Administration of medications by employees not licensed under chapter 18.79** States that medications recognized by law after July 1, 2014 must be administered voluntarily by the staff without coercion by the employer. Letters are to be submitted by the employee stating their willingness to complete the task. Letters will expire if there is a significant change in condition.

[Guidelines for Medication Administration In Schools 2022](#), a guide provided by OSPI, states that medication administration that is completed by an Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) is to be supervised by a Registered Nurse. There must be training that is completed yearly that covers a way to report medication errors, the required charting, when to contact the Registered Nurse for complications, and confidentiality.

SUMMARY

The ability to administer medications to students during school and after school activities is a key part of a school nurse's job in order to keep students safe during the school day. The laws of Washington State allow for medications to be administered while students are at school or after school activities. Even though it is the ultimate goal of the School Nurse Organization of Washington (SNOW) to have a school nurse in every school, we also know that at this time it is not a reality. SNOW supports the ability of school registered nurses to delegate appropriate nursing tasks, including medication administration.

REFERENCES/RESOURCES

Guidelines for Medication Administration in Schools (2022), retrieved from the World Wide Web October 4, 2023.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices/pubdocs/GuidelinesforMedicationAdministrationinSchools.pdf>

RCW 18.79.260 retrieved from the World Wide Web July 24, 2017.

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=18.79.260>

RCW 28A.210.260-275 retrieved from the World Wide Web July 24, 2017.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.210.260>

Author: Liz Pray MSN-Ed, RN

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