

**STUDENT MEDICATION****Purpose**

To foster full access to the school environment to students and to ensure the safe, accurate administration of medication to students during school hours and during school sponsored events in compliance with the California Education Code, legal mandates and safe medical practice (California Education Code, Sec. 49423; American Disabilities Act, Sec. 504).

**Overview**

Students may not carry prescription or over the counter drugs unless the medication is required to reverse a medical condition in an emergency situation and when a Student Independent Self-Medication Authorization form is completed by a physician and signed by a parent/guardian and a school nurse. All medications, including both prescription and over the counter medication, that Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) staff administer to students or assist with students administering to themselves shall require a “Medication Administration Authorization” or a “Student Independent Self-Medication Authorization” form signed by the student’s guardian/parent and authorized by a health care provider. In the case of student independent self-administration, the form must be signed by the student. MCOE will not require the parent/guardian to waive any rights, hold MCOE harmless, or agree to any particular placement or related services as a condition of assisting a student in the administration of medication at school. MCOE also may not require that the parent/guardian agree to the administration of medication or restrict the child from any services to which they are entitled on the basis of the lack of permission to administer medication. The parent/guardian may discontinue administration of medication at school at any time by submitting a written statement or by making a verbal statement. However the verbal statement must be witnessed by at least two (2) staff members who note this witnessing on the medical log and on the appropriate medication authorization form. MCOE will not adjust the dosage or medication administration directions indicated in the authorized health care provider’s statement, except for cessation of a given medication by a parent/guardian, unless MCOE receives such changes in writing, from the authorized health care provider.

**Guardian**

The individual or individuals legally empowered to make educational and medical decisions on behalf of the student. This can be the natural parent, legal guardian, or an individual authorized by the courts to act in such a capacity on a temporary or long term basis.

**Health Care Provider**

An authorized health care provider can be any of the following:

**STUDENT MEDICATION** (continued)

- Medical Doctor (M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) who holds a current and active license, within the appropriate scope of practice, issued by the State of California
- Family Nurse Practitioner (F.N.P.), under the direction of a medical doctor, who holds a current and active license, within the appropriate scope of practice, issued by the State of California
- Medical officer of a U.S. government facility

*Legal References:*

EDUCATION CODE

*35183.5 Each school site shall allow for*

*49403 Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, the governing board*

*49414 A school district or county office of education may provide emergency*

*49422-49427 No physician, psychiatrist, oculist, dentist*

*49480 The parent or legal guardian of any public school pupil*

*56040.5 State and local educational agency personnel*

*56040-56048 Every individual with exceptional needs who is eligible to receive special education instruction*

CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

*11053-11058 The controlled substances listed or to be listed in the schedules in this chapter*