

# FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA  
INHALERS

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 6, 2000

REVISED: MAY 9, 2007

<p><b>1. Authority</b></p> <p>SC 1414.1</p> <p><b>2. Definitions</b></p> <p>SC 1401</p> <p><b>3. Guidelines</b></p> <p>SC 1414.1 Title 22 Sec. 12.41</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>210.1. POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS</b></p> <p>The <b>Board</b> shall <b>permit</b> students to possess asthma inhalers and to self-administer <b>the prescribed medication used to treat asthma when such is parent-authorized.</b></p> <p><b>Possession and use of asthma inhalers by students shall be in accordance with state law and Board policy.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Self-administration shall mean a student’s use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.</b></p> <p><b>Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler during school hours, the Board shall require the following:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A written request from the parent/guardian that the district comply with the order of the physician, <b>certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.</b></li> <li>2. A statement <b>from</b> the parent/guardian <b>acknowledging that</b> the school is not responsible for ensuring <b>the medication</b> is taken and <b>relieving</b> the district and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the <b>prescribed</b> medication.</li> <li>3. A written statement from the physician, <b>certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant that states:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Name of the drug.</b></li> <li>b. <b>Prescribed dosage.</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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<p>SC 1401</p> <p>SC 1414.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>c. <b>Times medication is to be taken, if appropriate.</b></li><li>d. <b>Length of time medication is prescribed.</b></li><li>e. <b>Diagnosis or reason medication is needed, unless confidential.</b></li><li>f. <b>Potential serious reaction or side effects of medication.</b></li><li>g. <b>Emergency response.</b></li><li>h. <b>If child is qualified and able to self-administer the medication.</b></li></ul> <p><b>The student shall be made aware that the asthma inhaler is intended for his/her use only and may not be shared with other students.</b></p> <p><b>The student shall notify the school nurse immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler.</b></p> <p><b>Violations of this policy by a student shall result in immediate confiscation of the asthma inhaler and medication and loss of privileges.</b></p> <p><b>The district reserves the right to require a statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period. Permission for possession and use of an asthma inhaler by a student shall be effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.</b></p> <p><b>A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler and self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the capability for self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication.</b></p> <p><b>To self-administer medication, the student must be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Respond to and visually recognize his/her name.</b></li><li><b>2. Identify his/her medication.</b></li><li><b>3. Demonstrate the proper technique for self-administering medication.</b></li><li><b>4. Sign his/her medication sheet to acknowledge having taken the medication.</b></li></ul>
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<p><b>4. Delegation of Responsibility</b></p>	<p><b>5. Demonstrate a cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration.</b></p> <p><b>The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with the school nurse(s), shall develop procedures for student possession of asthma inhalers and self-administration of prescribed medication.</b></p> <p><b>The district shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the policy and procedures governing student possession and use of asthma inhalers.</b></p> <p><b>When an asthma inhaler is initially brought to school by a student, the school nurse shall be responsible to complete the following:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Obtain the required written request and statements from the parent/guardian and physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, which shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.</b></li><li><b>2. Review pertinent information with the student and/or parent/guardian, specifically the information contained on the statement submitted by the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.</b></li><li><b>3. Determine the student's ability to self-administer medication and the need for care and supervision.</b></li><li><b>4. Maintain an individual medication log for all students possessing asthma inhalers.</b></li></ol> <p><b>References:</b></p> <p><b>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1401, 1414.1</b></p> <p><b>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec 12.41</b></p>
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