



# 5 things Michigan Parents should know

to ensure their child's health needs are safely supported during school.

---

Sometimes children have a health issue that requires their school to be involved in their care. Here are five things Michigan parents should know to make sure their child is safe and that the school is fully supporting their child's health care needs.

1. Federal law requires schools to accommodate student health needs in such a way so that all students can receive a free and appropriate public education.
2. A partnership between parents, schools, and health care providers is the key to successfully supporting your child's health needs. Working together maximizes children's safety, academic outcomes, and opportunities to fully participate in their school experience.
3. Both the parent and health care provider signatures are required on any and all support that the health care provider prescribes. Medication orders and care plans are required to be updated at the start of each academic year or more frequently if your child's needs change.
4. Without appropriate training, written permission from the parent, and written instructions from the health care provider, soap, water, ice, bandages, and comfort are the only things that school personnel can administer.
5. It is important to meet with your principal or other school administrator because he/she is responsible for **designating**\* someone to support students' health needs.

## Here are some good questions to ask:

- **What does the school need from me, the parent?**

*For example, written documentation from the healthcare provider requesting that specific care be provided during the school day. This may or may not include medication.*

- **Can I see the district policy and/or guidelines for supporting students' health needs?**

A policy would cover such things as training, emergency procedures, storage of medications, documentation, errors in medication administration, student possession of medication and self-administration, privacy and confidentiality.

- **Who has been designated to support students' health needs?**

For example an administrator, teacher, or other school employee.

- **Who is the *delegating*\*\* registered nurse (RN) that will provide training, supervision and evaluation of the designated school personnel?**

*Note: If the school district employs a professional School Nurse, the principal or other school administrator may refer you to the School Nurse to answer many of these questions.*

*\* With regard to medication administration, Michigan Revised School Code (1976) protects school employees from liability if the employees are designated by a school administrator and other expectations are met.*

*\*\* Michigan Public Health Code (1978) defines delegation as "authorization granted...to perform selected acts, tasks, or functions". Michigan Board of Nursing Administrative Rules stipulates that only a registered nurse may delegate nursing acts, functions, or tasks.*

For more information you can visit

Updated August 2020