

Wellness Policy

HEALTH CARE NEEDS

This School Policy on children with Special Health Care Needs of the Booneville School District is developed in accordance with the Arkansas Act 1146 of 1995 to serve as a resource guide for students with special health care needs. According to the law, a free appropriate public education means the provision by school districts of both special education and the related services that students need to make their schooling possible. Related services are defined to include, among other kinds of services, "school health services." In addition, there are students who require "school health services" who are not in need of special education. It is the responsibility of the school to provide "school health services" for these individuals. School health services are provided to permit a student to benefit from his or her educational program. The school district will provide a particular health service when it: a. Is "necessary" to enable the student to attend school, b. Can be performed by a school nurse or some other "qualified person" c. Is not "unduly expensive" d. And does not require "constant" attention by a staff person. Students with special health care needs are those who require individualized health care intervention to enable participation in the educational process. Included within this population are students: a. Who may require administration of medication and/or special procedures during the school day; b. Who may use a particular health care device that compensates for the loss of a vital body function; c. Who may have a chronic medical condition that is currently stable, but may require routine or emergency health care procedures; and d. Who may require the provision of substantial, special, or frequent health care to avert death or further disability. Educational and health care professionals use a variety of terms to describe students with chronic or special health conditions. Such students may be referred to as chronically ill, other health impaired, medically fragile or technology dependent. Each of these terms share overlapping features. "Chronically ill" is the term used to describe a student whose condition is long-term and results in decreased strength, vitality and alertness. Chronic conditions often seen in students include asthma, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer and epilepsy. Students who have a chronic illness often present a fluctuating state of health care needs. The condition may adversely affect the student's educational performance and require supervision to maintain, regulate, or intervene, as appropriate. "Medically fragile" describes a condition in which the absence of immediate, health-related, special-skilled care threatens the life or health of the student. A medical protocol is required to ensure a person's safety. There is no foreseeable end to this condition. (Brodsky & Wilson, 1989). "Technology dependent" describes a condition in which a student requires a medical device, such as mechanical ventilation, tracheotomies, oxygen, or respirator to compensate for the loss of a vital body function. 54 In Arkansas, the term "other health impairment" is used in the educational setting to identify a student who requires special education and related services because of a health condition which results in "limited strength, vitality, or alertness, due to chronic or acute health problems such as a heart condition, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, nephritis, asthma, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, epilepsy, lead poisoning, leukemia or diabetes, that adversely affects a child's educational performance" (Arkansas Department of Education Program Standards document, page 23-1). The definition of special health care needs includes students with a wide continuum of needs, from mild to severe. Some students may only require medication during the school day, while other students may require more extensive health care services. For example, a student with asthma may just need medication, while another student with diabetes may need injections and a special diet. It is important for school

personnel to have a process in place where an Individualized Health Care Plan (IHP) is developed for every student with a special health care needs.

STUDENT HEALTH CARE/ILLNESS/ACCIDENT

If a student becomes too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious, the principal or designee will attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. The student will remain in the school's health room or a place where he/she can be supervised until the end of the school day or until the parent/legal guardian can check the student out of school. If the student becomes seriously ill or is injured while at school and the parent/legal guardian cannot be contacted, the failure to make such contact shall not unreasonably delay the school's expeditious transport of the student to an appropriate medical care facility. The school assumes no responsibility for treatment of the student. When available, current, and applicable, the student's emergency contact numbers and medical information will be utilized. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep this information up to date. Parents, with the cooperation of physicians, are requested to give medication to students at home if possible. If it is necessary for a student to take any form of medication at school, the following rules apply: a. School policy requires that any medication given at school must be by doctor's prescription only. b. The medication must be in the original container with the student's name on the prescription. c. No over-the-counter drugs will be given at school, as school personnel are not trained to determine when medications are needed. d. A consent form must be signed before any medication will be given at school. Consent forms can be picked up from the school nurse. **HANDWRITTEN NOTES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.** e. Permission for long term medication must be renewed at the beginning of each semester. f. Parents must bring medication to school on the first day it is to be administered. g. All medical procedures must follow policy guidelines.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES

Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian. Specific examples include but are not limited to: Varicella (chicken pox), measles, scabies, conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), impetigo/MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis A, B, or C, mumps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (100.4 F when taken orally). A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted, at the discretion of the school nurse, when the student is no longer a transmission risk. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to the school. To help control the possible spread of communicable diseases, school personnel shall follow the District's exposure control plan when dealing with any blood borne, foodborne, and airborne pathogens exposures. Standard precautions shall be followed relating to the handling, disposal, and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials such as all body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat). In accordance with 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the District shall maintain a copy of each student's immunization record and a list of individuals with exemptions from immunization which shall be education records as defined in policy 4.13. That policy provides that an education record may be disclosed to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is

necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. 55 A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health. The parents or legal guardians of students found to have live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment will be asked to pick their child up at the end of the school day. The parents or legal guardians will be given information concerning the eradication and control of human host parasites. A student may be readmitted after the school nurse or designee has determined the student no longer has live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment. Each school may conduct screenings of students for human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of each student. If the parent wants his/her child to remain in the classroom during recess for medical reasons, please send a note to the teacher with an explanation. Otherwise, students will be expected to play outside during recess. In the event of continuing illness and/or health problems, a doctor's statement is necessary to be excused from participation in physical education activities.