

## **Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors**

**Purpose:** To establish the basic structure for the use of epinephrine auto-injectors in the district.

The board recognizes that on occasion an emergency situation may arise when a school nurse or other designated school personnel believes in good faith that a student or an individual on school premises is experiencing anaphylaxis, a life-threatening type of allergic reaction. State law permits physicians and certain medical personnel licensed to prescribe medications to prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors maintained in the name of a school. A school may maintain a stock supply of epinephrine auto-injectors in accordance with a prescription issued pursuant to the Safe Access to Vital Epinephrine (SAVE) Act.

Pursuant to state law and in accordance with this policy, the board authorizes school nurses and other designated school personnel to utilize epinephrine auto-injectors in the following circumstances.

- Provide an epinephrine auto-injector to a student to self-administer in accordance with a prescription specific to the student that is on file with the school
- Administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a student in accordance with a prescription specific to the student that is on file with the school
- Administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a student or other individual on school premises whom the school nurse or other designated school personnel believes in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis, in accordance with a standing protocol of a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant licensed to prescribe medication pursuant to state law, regardless of whether the student or other individual has a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector

The superintendent or his/her designee, in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, will develop and implement a plan to authorize the district schools to maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors and to provide and administer epinephrine auto-injectors to students and other people. The plan will provide for the management of students with life-threatening allergies enrolled in the schools of the district, and must include, but need not be limited to, the following.

- Education and training for school personnel on the management of students with life-threatening allergies, including training related to the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector; techniques on how to recognize symptoms of severe allergic reactions,

including anaphylaxis; and the standards and procedures for the storage and administration of an epinephrine auto-injector

- Procedures for responding to life-threatening allergic reactions, including emergency follow-up procedures
- A process for the development of individualized health care and allergy action plans for every student with a known life-threatening allergy

The superintendent or his/her designee will make the plan available to the public on the district's website or by other means as determined by the superintendent.

No one, including without limitation parents/legal guardians of students, should rely on a school of this district for the availability of an epinephrine auto-injector. This policy does not guarantee the availability of an epinephrine auto-injector; students and their parents/legal guardians should consult their own physician regarding this medication.

The SAVE Act provides school boards, districts, schools, school nurses and/or other designated school personnel immunity from liability for damages caused by injuries to a student or another person resulting from the administration or self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector and plan development and implementation as allowed and set forth under the Act. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful, wanton or reckless conduct.

The district will provide a student with a known life-threatening allergy an individual healthcare and allergy action plan pursuant to policy JLCD (Assisting Students with Medications) and its accompanying administrative rule.

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
  - 1. Section 59-63-95, et.seq – Safe Access to Vital Epinephrine Act.

*Adopted:* \_\_\_\_\_