



Medications at School

Introduction

The goal of the school system regarding the administration of medication during school hours is to assist students in maintaining an optimal state of wellness, thus enhancing the educational experience. **These guidelines refer to both prescription and over-the-counter medications.**

The parent/guardian should treat minor illness at home. For example, a student with a cold severe enough to require frequent medication should remain at home.

It is the policy of the Baldwin County Public Schools to administer the student's medication as prescribed by their physician. The local school district encourages parents to give the student their medication at home whenever possible. For example, when a student has medication ordered daily, the medication should be given at home. Medication prescribed three times a day should be given at home – just before leaving for school, upon returning home in the afternoon, and at bedtime. The only exception to this schedule is medication that must be given before or with meals.

The following requirements provide school personnel, parents/guardians, students, and health professionals with the guidance necessary to provide safe and proper assistance with medication in schools.

Parent's Responsibility

The parent/guardian and physician must sign the Alabama State Department of Education School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization form granting permission for a child to receive prescription medication at school.

The parent/guardian must provide the school with medication that is in a correctly labeled prescription bottle container (which includes student's name, prescriber's name, name of medication, strength, dosage, time interval, route, and date of drug's discontinuation when applicable). Medications will only be accepted in the original container. Medications received in a zip lock bag or not in the original container **will not be given** and parents will be contacted to pick up medication.

The parent/guardian must provide the school with a new, signed prescriber/parent authorization form at the beginning of each school year and/or before any prescription medication can be given at school. This consent form authorizes school personnel to assist students with medication. If the medication order is changed during the school year (e.g., change in dosage), an additional prescriber authorization/order is necessary.

The parent/guardian or the parent designated responsible adult must deliver all medication to the school nurse or other school personnel as designated by the principal. The parent/guardian shall pick up student's unused medication (when the medicine is completed, out of date, or at the end of the school year). The school nurse or designated school personnel will destroy medications not picked up by the parent/guardian in a timely manner.

The parent/guardian shall provide nonprescription medication in an original, unopened, sealed container of the drug, identifying the medication and the entire manufacturer's labeling plus the student's name (written legibly on the container). Please provide medication, such as Tylenol, in smallest container available.

