

Arc Guide to Medication Administration in Public Schools

Each local school board has their own policies to help guide schools in their district. Policies define the direction and intent of the school board. Most districts have a policy about medication administration that applies to all students. You may find the policies on the school website and in the student handbook. **The Arc Minnesota recommends that parents or guardians review their school district's policies.**

It is recommended that you have an [Individualized Healthcare Plan \(IHP\)](#) if you receive services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan.

Student Self-Administration of Medications

You may be able to carry your medication if you have written permission from parents, guardians, and medical providers. Schools provide a form for medication administration. Complete this form every year. The school nurse must meet with the you. The nurse must document that you can carry your own medication.

Students in middle school or above can carry and take over-the-counter medications. These medications cannot contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine ([MN Statute 121A.222](#)).

Medication Administration and School Staff

A nurse licensed by the Board of Teaching is responsible for nursing services in the school. This includes medication administration.

The school nurse determines what other school staff can give medication. That individual is called an Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP).

Things to consider

- Staff need a signed consent form to speak to medical providers about your medical needs. Talk to your medical provider if you have concerns.
- Your medical needs help determine if a nurse needs to be in the school building.
- Treatments not considered medication administration are not covered by the medication administration policy. Examples include:
 - Catheterization
 - Tracheotomy suctioning
 - Gastrostomy feedings
- Emergency health procedures, including emergency administration of medication, are not covered by the medication administration policy.

Resources

[Minnesota Guidelines for Medication Administration in Schools](#)

[Minnesota Department of Education School Health Services](#)

[MN Statute 121A.21 School Health Services](#)

[MN Statute 144.29 Health Records; Children Of School Age](#)

[MN Statute 148.171, Subd. 24 Unlicensed Assistive Personnel](#)

[MN Statute 8710.61 School Nurse](#)

For more information or advocacy services, contact The Arc Minnesota at 833.450.1494 or visit www.arcminnesota.org. (Please note: *This document is not legal advice. No information should replace the advice of an attorney.*)

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