

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rockville, Maryland

September 24, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Patricia O'Neill, Chair, Board of Education Policy Committee

Subject: Tentative Action, Policy JPD, *Emergency Care for Students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*

The Board of Education Policy Committee has developed Policy JPD, *Emergency Care for Students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*, in response to Senate Bill 621. Senate Bill 621 requires local boards of education to develop policies regarding the use of epinephrine auto-injectors. Policy JPD authorizes the school nurse and other school personnel to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to a student who is determined to be or perceived to be in anaphylaxis, regardless of whether the student has been identified as having an anaphylactic allergy or has a prescription for epinephrine from an authorized licensed health care practitioner. Policy JPD also requires the superintendent of schools to establish procedures regarding training to recognize the symptoms of anaphylaxis, procedures for emergency administration of auto-injectable epinephrine, and proper follow-up emergency procedures.

During the 2011–2012 school year, approximately 4,000 Montgomery County Public Schools students were known, through health forms or conversations with family members, to be susceptible to anaphylaxis. Slightly more than half of those students provided an EpiPen to the school for use in the case of an emergency. Over the course of the year, a total of 97 students experienced anaphylaxis and 911 was called in every instance. Of those 97 students, 39 were treated with an EpiPen that had been provided by the student's parents and 23 were administered epinephrine through a vial and syringe by the school nurse. The remaining 35 students did not receive any treatment prior to the arrival of emergency personnel because there was neither an EpiPen provided by a parent nor a nurse available to administer epinephrine through a vial and syringe. Finally, of the 97 students who experienced anaphylaxis last year, 27 of them were not known to the school to be susceptible to anaphylaxis.

Senate Bill 621 was passed during the 2012 Legislative Session with an effective date of July 1, 2012. An initiative of this size is challenging to complete in the time allotted by the General Assembly. Staff members have worked hard to ensure that schools were ready to meet

the requirements of the law at the beginning of the 2012–2013 school year. After Tentative Action is taken on Policy JPD, it will be distributed for public comment and returned to the Board for Final Action on October 22, 2012. While the time period for public comment is shorter than that which is typically provided, it does comply with the requirements of Policy BFA, *Policysetting*, and is necessary to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 621.

The Board of Education is committed to a school environment that promotes and protects children’s health, well-being, and ability to learn. Preparation for medical emergencies that children may encounter during the school day is an important part of that environment.

Members of the Policy Committee discussed draft Policy JPD, *Emergency Care for Students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*, on September 18, 2012, and have approved the attached draft.

The following resolution is provided for your consideration:

WHEREAS, Policy JPD, *Emergency Care for Students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*, promotes and protects children’s health, well-being, and ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education Policy Committee has considered and recommended revisions to Policy JPD, *Emergency Care for Students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education take tentative action on Policy JPD, *Emergency Care for Students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*; and be it further

Resolved, That Policy JPD, *Emergency Care for Students Experiencing Anaphylaxis*, be sent out for public comment.

Present at the Board table for the discussion are Dr. Ursula A. Hermann, director, Department of Student Services, Office of Special Education and Student Services and Ms. Sally M. Davis, policy specialist, Department of Policy, Records, and Reporting, Office of Shared Accountability.

PO:hp

Attachment

1 Related Entries: JPD-RB
2 Responsible Office: Special Education and Student Services
3 Related Sources: Annotated Code of Maryland Education
4 Article, §7-426.2
5

6 Emergency Care for Students
7 Experiencing Anaphylaxis
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9 A. PURPOSE

10 The Board of Education (Board) is committed to a school
11 environment that promotes and protects children's health,
12 well-being, and ability to learn. Preparation for medical
13 emergencies that children may encounter during the school
14 day is an important part of that environment.
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16 B. ISSUE
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18 Some students have severe, life-threatening reactions to
19 nuts or other foods, insect venom, and or other substances
20 in the environment and rapidly develop a condition called
21 anaphylaxis. These students may need an immediate
22 injection of epinephrine while awaiting transport to the
23 hospital.
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25 C. POSITION
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27 Schools shall establish procedures to provide emergency
28 medical care to any student who is determined or perceived
29 to be in anaphylaxis.

30 1. The school nurse, and other school personnel
31 identified by the superintendent of schools **or**
32 **designee**, are authorized to administer auto-injectable
33 epinephrine, if available, to a student who is
34 determined to be or perceived to be in anaphylaxis,
35 regardless of whether the student—

36 (a) has been identified as having an anaphylactic
37 allergy; or,

38 (b) has a prescription for epinephrine as prescribed
39 by an authorized licensed health care
40 practitioner.

41 2. School personnel shall be trained on—

42 (a) how to recognize the symptoms of anaphylaxis;

43 (b) procedures for the emergency administration of
44 auto-injectable epinephrine; and,

45 (c) the proper follow-up emergency procedures.

46 3. A school nurse may obtain and store auto-injectable
47 epinephrine to be used in an emergency situation.

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50 D. DESIRED OUTCOMES

51 An educational environment that promotes and protects
52 children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by
53 preparing for medical emergencies that children may
54 encounter during the school day.

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56 E. IMPLEMENTATION

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58 The superintendent of schools or designee will develop
59 procedures for obtaining and storing auto-injectable
60 epinephrine to be used in an emergency situation,
61 recognizing symptoms of anaphylaxis, providing training
62 identified in this policy for school personnel,
63 administering auto-injectable epinephrine, and completing
64 proper follow-up emergency procedures.

65 F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

66 This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board
67 policy review process.

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71 *Policy History:* Adopted by Resolution No.