**210. USE OF MEDICATIONS**

1. **Purpose**
   The Board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication in accordance with the direction of a parent or family physician to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available during school hours.

   For purposes of this policy, **medications** shall include all medicines prescribed by a PA licensed prescriber and any over-the-counter medicines.

   For purposes of this policy, **licensed prescribers** shall include licensed PA physicians (M.D. and D.O.), podiatrists, dentists, optometrists, certified registered nurse practitioners and physicians assistants.

   The Board directs all District employees to comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Guidelines for Pennsylvania Schools for the Administration of Medications and Emergency Care.

2. **Prescription Medications**
   No prescription medications shall be administered in school except by the direct order of a physician. The parent or guardian must complete and sign the prescription medication information form prior to the dispensing of prescription medication. The Slippery Rock Area School District does not supply any prescription medication. It is the parent's responsibility to supply all medications to be taken at school.

3. **Nonprescription Medications**
   No nonprescription medications shall be administered in school except those covered by a standing order of the school physician and those covered by a direct order of a physician. The parent or guardian must complete and sign the nonprescription medication form prior to the dispensing of medication. It is the parent's responsibility to supply all medication to be taken at school.
It shall be the policy of the Slippery Rock Area School District that the school nurse be responsible for administering medication to students.

The Slippery Rock Area School District will cooperate with parents and their medical practitioners in giving prescribed medications when these must be given during school hours. To comply with a request, the parent or guardian must complete the Medication Permission form for either Prescription or Non-prescription Medication.

2. All Medication and medical supplies must be brought to school by a parent/guardian in a container from the pharmacy and be labeled appropriately with the child's name, physician's name, date of the order, name of the medication, the dosage and time to be given.

3. Medication and medical supplies must be brought in an appropriate container from the pharmacy.

4. The administration of Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen and Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) is covered by a standing order from the school physician, and must be reviewed each year. The Health, Emergency and Medication form must be signed by a parent/guardian.

5. Medication will be stored in a secure, locked cabinet unless the physician authorizes a different arrangement i.e. self-management of medications such as inhalers for asthma or Epinephrine (See Policy 210.1). Medications requiring refrigeration will be refrigerated in a secure area.

6. The administration of medication must be recorded by the person who administers the medication. The medication log states the name of the student, medication, dosage, time and names of person administering the medication.

7. The parents or guardian of the child must assume responsibility for informing the school of any change in the child's health or change in medication. A new medication form will be required with each change in medication or at the beginning of each school year.

8. All medications, Prescription and Nonprescription, are to be taken in the health room. Exceptions are inhalers for asthma and Epinephrine which may be carried by a student if a specific request is obtained from the parent and physician.
9. At the completion of medication administration, unused medication must be picked up by the parent/guardian, or will be discarded by school personnel. The medication permission forms will include a section addressing the disposal of medication and requesting parent signature for permission to discard.

**Administration of Medication During Field Trips and Other School-Sponsored Activities**

The Board directs planning for field trips and other school-sponsored activities to start early in the school year and to include collaboration between administrators, teachers, nurses, appropriate parents/guardians and other designated health officials.

Considerations when planning for administration of medication during field trips and other school-sponsored programs and activities shall be based on the student’s individual needs and may include the following:

1. Assigning school health staff to be available.
2. Utilizing a licensed person from the school District’s substitute list.
3. Contracting with a credible agency which provides temporary nursing services.
4. Utilizing licensed volunteers via formal agreement that delineates responsibilities of both the school and the individual.
5. Addressing with parent/guardian the possibility of obtaining from the licensed prescriber a temporary order to change the time of the dose.
6. Asking parent/guardian to accompany the child on the field trip, with proper clearances.
7. Arranging for medications to be provided in an original labeled container with only the amount of medication needed.

Security procedures shall be established for the handling of medication during field trips and other school-sponsored activities.

The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with the Certified School Nurse (CSN), shall develop administrative regulations for the administration and self-administration of students’ medications.
4. Delegation of Responsibility

42 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 8337.1

All medications shall be administered by the Certified School Nurse, or in the absence of the Certified School Nurse by other licensed school health staff (RN, LPN), except as otherwise noted in this policy.

In the event of an emergency, other District employees may administer medication only when s/he believes, in good faith, that a student needs emergency care.

The policy and administrative regulations for administration of medications shall be reviewed, at least every two (2) years, by a committee consisting of the Certified School Nurse, school physician, school dentist, designated administrators and revised as necessary.

References –
School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1401, 1402, 1409, 1414.1
State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.41
Civil Immunity of School Officers or Employees Relating to Emergency Care, First Aid or Rescue – 42 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 8337.1
Pennsylvania Department of Health “Guidelines for Pennsylvania Schools for the Administration of Medications and Emergency Care” March 2010