

518 DNR-DNI ORDERS

I. PURPOSE

The school district recognizes that it is serving students with complex health needs. The school district also recognizes that school district staff may be confronted with requests to withhold emergency care of a student in the event of a life threatening situation at school or school activities or be presented with Do Not Resuscitate/Do Not Intubate (DNR-DNI) orders. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to school district staff and parents or guardians regarding these situations.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The primary mission of the school district is education. DNR-DNI orders are medical documents. The school district generally believes that a decision not to resuscitate a student or initiate life-saving measures is a medical judgment best made by a physician in the context of a clinic, hospital, or other medical facility, based upon the particular circumstances presented by the student. However, in limited circumstances, school nurses are authorized to accept or honor verified DNR-DNI orders.
- B. School district staff will activate emergency medical services (911) as soon as possible when a student is undergoing a medical emergency during school or school activities. School district staff will provide reasonable emergency care and assistance when a student is undergoing a medical emergency during school or school activities, until relieved by a school nurse who is familiar with the student's verified DNR-DNI order or until relieved by emergency medical personnel. A school nurse who is familiar with the Student's verified DNR-DNI order may follow the order until relieved by emergency medical personnel.
- C. With the prior written consent of the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), school officials will make reasonable efforts to notify emergency medical personnel of the existence of the verified DNR-DNI order and provide them the parents' or guardians' emergency contact information.
- D. The parent/guardian will be notified of the emergency as soon as possible.
- E. The school nurse shall meet with the parent(s) or guardian(s) and receive information from the student's physician in order to determine the child's medical diagnosis, current condition, prognosis and anticipated medical needs. School personnel shall then convene a multidisciplinary team meeting (which could be an IEP Team meeting for a special education student or a Section 504 Team meeting for a Section 504 student) to develop an individual health plan for the student, which may include individually appropriate life-sustaining interventions to be followed in a medical emergency. If the parent or guardian declines to meet or to agree to an individual health plan, this shall be noted in the student's file.

- F. Upon receiving a parent's or guardian's request to accept a DNR-DNI order in the school setting, the school nurse shall obtain written verification signed and dated by the student's parent or guardian and the student's physician confirming that the student has a valid DNR-DNI order and that such order may be accepted and implemented in the school setting. Only verified DNR-DNI orders may be honored by school nurses.
- G. Upon receiving a parent's or guardian's request to rescind a verified DNR-DNI order, the school nurse shall obtain written verification signed and dated by the student's parent or guardian and the student's physician confirming that the verified DNR-DNI order has been rescinded.
- H. Parents/guardians who request that emergency care be withheld for their child or who present DNR-DNI orders, shall be advised of and shall be given a copy of this policy.

Legal References: 29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq. (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Cross References: