



Where Learning is the Expectation

THOMAS KENNEDY  
DISTRICT 1

VIRGINIA BRYANT  
DISTRICT 2

PATRICIA DEUTSCHMAN  
DISTRICT 3

BILL MURRAY  
DISTRICT 4

LINDA B. POWERS  
DISTRICT 5

January 4, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Currently, in our school clinics we have epi-pens as an emergency back-up for students who have not been previously identified as having a history of allergies to insect bites or foods. Based on recent interpretations of State Statutes 1006.062 and 1002.20, section (i), ***below in italics***, it has been determined that the statutes do not allow us to provide medications that have not been specifically prescribed for a student. A student with a known allergy has the right, by statute, to carry an epi-pen on their person (with physician and parent permission) or the medication can be kept in the clinic (with parent permission).

***F.S. 1006.062 1.*** For each prescribed medication, the student's parent shall provide to the school principal a written statement which grants to the school principal or the principal's designee permission to assist in the administration of such medication and which explains the necessity for the medication to be provided during the school day, including any occasion when the student is away from school property on official school business. The school principal or the principal's trained designee shall assist the student in the administration of the medication. Each prescribed medication to be administered by district school board personnel shall be received, counted, and stored in its original container. When the medication is not in use, it shall be stored in its original container in a secure fashion under lock and key in a location designated by the school principal.

***F.S. 1002.20 (i) Epinephrine use.*** A student who has experienced or is at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions may carry an epinephrine auto-injector and self-administer epinephrine by auto-injector while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities if the school has been provided with parental and physician authorization. The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall adopt rules for such use of epinephrine auto-injectors that shall include provisions to protect the safety of all students from the misuse or abuse of auto-injectors. A school district, county health department, public-private partner, and their employees and volunteers shall be indemnified by the parent of a student authorized to carry an epinephrine auto-injector for any and all liability with respect to the student's use of an epinephrine auto-injector pursuant to this paragraph.

In accordance with State Statutes 1006.062 and 1002.20 it has been determined that all epi-pens not specifically prescribed for a student will be removed from all clinics and first aid kits. As with any emergency occurring in the schools, our first response will be to call 911 and follow their instructions. Since this is a policy change, I wanted to make sure every parent/guardian is aware so you can discuss this with your child's physician and determine if any allergy your child has may require you to provide an epi-pen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Himmel".

Sandra "Sam" Himmel  
Superintendent of Schools