

TITLE: Care of Students with Chronic Health Conditions

POLICY:

The Lake Wales Charter Schools (LWCS) believes that each student, regardless of school choice, impairment, or socioeconomic status shall receive the same standard of care from a licensed health professional (i.e.,LPN or RN) for daily, intermittent, or emergency health care while on our school campuses.

Students with chronic health conditions will be provided with a free appropriate public education. If their impairment does not require specially designed instruction for them to benefit educationally, they will be eligible for accommodations/modifications/interventions of the regular classroom, curriculum, or activity (i.e. the school setting) so that they have the same access to education as students without disabilities. Such accommodations/modifications/interventions may be provided pursuant to a Section 504 Plan.

A. Chronic Health Conditions

Shall include but are not limited to:

1. "peanut" and other food allergies;
2. allergies other than food;
3. asthma;
4. diabetes; and
5. seizure disorders.

B. Confidentiality

All information regarding student identification, health care management, and emergency care shall be safeguarded as personally identifiable information.

C. Best Health Practices

The District will coordinate school health practices for the management of a chronic health condition and shall provide for:

1. identification of individuals with chronic health conditions;
2. development of individual health care action plans;

3. coordination of health care management activities by school staff;
4. communication among school staff who interact with children with chronic health conditions;
5. development of protocols to prevent exposure/episodic reactions;
6. awareness and training of school staff regarding District policy on acute and routine management of chronic health conditions, information on signs and treatment of chronic health conditions, medication and administration, and emergency protocols for dealing with reactions in "unusual" situations such as field trips.

D. School Health Practices

School health practices shall provide students with chronic health conditions the opportunity for:

1. full participation in physical activities when students are well;
2. modified activities as indicated by the student's health care action plan, 504 plan, or Individualized Education Plan (IEP);
3. access to preventative medications before activity (as prescribed by their medical providers) and immediate access to emergency medications during activity;
4. communication regarding student health status between parents, physicians, teachers (particularly physical education teachers), coaches, and other appropriate staff.

E. Management

Healthcare management activities shall include:

1. procedures to obtain, maintain, and utilize written health care action plans, signed by the child's parents, for each student with a chronic health condition;
2. a standard emergency protocol in place for students experiencing a distress reaction if they do not have a written health care action plan on site;
3. established communication strategies for students to use to tell an adult they may be having a health-related problem;
4. procedures for students to have immediate access to medications that allow students to self-care and self-administer medications, inhalers, and Epi-pens, as prescribed by a medical professional and approved by parents/guardians;

5. prevention strategies to avoid causal elements;
6. case management for students with frequent school absences, school health office visits, emergency department visits, or hospitalizations due to chronic health conditions;
7. management and care of the student's chronic health condition in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, or at any school-related activity or event.

F. Training

Staff will be provided training about chronic health conditions and their control in each school in which there is a student with a chronic health condition.

1. Each school is required to designate two employees to serve as clinic substitutes. These employees will be trained to fill in for clinic duties in the event the licensed health professional is unavailable.
2. Designated staff who serve as clinic substitutes must be CPR & First Aid certified. Certification classes are available through the District.
3. Designated staff who have responsibility for specialized services such as giving inhaler treatments or injections, or conducting glucose and/or ketone tests shall be provided training specific to the procedures, at least annually, by the District RN.
4. The records of training completed by school employees shall be maintained and kept on file.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: F.S. 1001.43, 1006.062; HB 173; SB 340

Adopted 5/23/22