

POLICY

HEALTH OF STUDENTS

Responsibility of: Student Wellbeing and Inclusion
Effective Date: April 2018
Next Review Date: April 2022
Target Audience: Government school communities

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This document should be read in conjunction with:

- [Administration of Medications to Students with Notified Conditions Policy and Procedures](#)
- [Infectious Diseases – Exclusions from School and Preschool Policy](#)
- [Sun Safety in Schools Policy](#)
- [Anaphylaxis Management in Schools Guidelines](#)
- [Asthma Management in Schools Guidelines](#)
- [Condom Provision in Schools Guidelines and Procedures](#)
- [Head Lice Management Guidelines](#)
- [Mandatory Reporting of Harm and Exploitation of Children Guidelines](#)
- [Recording and Reporting Student Injuries Guidelines and Procedures.](#)

1. INTRODUCTION

The health of students is relevant to learning and is important in all educational contexts. Healthy students are more alert, engaged and better able to concentrate.

All children and young people of compulsory school age are entitled to participate in education and training regardless of their health status.

Students that have health support needs at school will:

- be assisted through regular assessment of risks and identification of strategies to mitigate any risks, inclusive of the development of individual health care plans if required
- be provided with first aid (including emergency care)
- be provided with temporary care when they become unwell at school
- be supported in relation to the administration of their medications.

Taking into account what is reasonable and safe in each individual case, schools (in consultation with parents) are expected to support students to develop independence in managing their own health.

The school's responsibility does not extend to administering prescribed medication and/or health care procedures to students who are able to administer this medication or carry out this procedure themselves. Should this occur though, the school does have a responsibility to take reasonable steps to ensure student safety.

Schools are required to implement practices related to student health that comply with:

- [Education and Care Services \(National Uniform Legislation\) Act 2011 \(NT\)](#)
 - Common Law obligations (see definitions below)
 - work health, anti-discrimination and privacy legislation
- and demonstrate a commitment to collaboration with parents.

2. BUSINESS NEED

The Department of Education (the department) previously maintained a range of individual policies regarding aspects of student health. The Health of Students Policy rationalises the diverse departmental directions into a coherent whole that clarifies the context, as well as the generic expectations and obligations of schools towards students and their health care needs.

3. SCOPE

This policy and its associated guidelines apply to all Northern Territory government schools. It governs the actions of all departmental staff working with students and their families on matters related to student health.

4. DEFINITIONS

Common Law obligations are duties that are derived from judicial decisions (the courts) and custom, as distinct from statute (the laws created by parliament).

Parent means a child's father, mother or any other person who has parental responsibility for the child, including a person who is regarded as a parent of the child under Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander customary law or tradition.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Principals will:

- implement policy and procedures, including development and documentation of school-specific procedures that reflect departmental policy and guidelines, to ensure that systems are in place to protect the health and safety of all students when they are at school or involved in school sanctioned activities.

All school staff will:

- take reasonable measures to protect students against risk of injury or harm which is reasonably foreseeable (note: the standard of care expected of schools and teachers is higher than that expected of parents)
- apply policy and procedures that protect the health and safety of all students when they are at school or involved in school sanctioned activities
- take reasonable care for the health and safety of all persons in the work environment and cooperate to ensure the health and safety of all, including assisting in an emergency
- where staff do not have first aid qualifications, provide assistance to ensure that a student receives medical attention including first aid.

Parents will:

- assist schools in their efforts to keep their child safe and healthy, including, ensuring the school has the latest information available in relation to the child's health status and needs.

6. ATTACHMENTS

- [Student's Health Care Action Plan Template](#)
- [Student's Health Care Plan Form](#)
- [Diabetic Client Form](#)
- [Epilepsy Management Plan Template](#)
- [Emergency Medication Management Plan for Midazolam Form](#)
- [Seizure Major Generalised First Aid Guide](#)
- [Seizure Record Template](#)
- [EpiPen Student Information Form](#)

7. RELATED POLICY, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

Legislation

- [Education Act 2015 \(NT\)](#)
- [Disability Standards for Education 2005 \(Cwlth\)](#)
- [Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 \(NT\)](#)
- [Education and Care Services \(National Uniform Legislation\) Act 2011 \(NT\)](#)
- [Information Act 2002 \(NT\)](#)
- [NT Work Health and Safety \(National Uniform Legislation\) Act 2011 \(NT\)](#)

Policy/Guidelines

- [Asbestos in Schools](#)
- [Drugs in Schools](#)
- [Excursions](#)
- [Physical Activity Requirements for Schools](#)
- [Safety in School Sport](#)
- [School Nutrition and Heathy Eating](#)
- [School Swimming, Water Safety Programs and Aquatic Activities](#)

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The department would like to thank the New South Wales Department of Education for its permission to adapt [Student Health in NSW Public Schools: A summary and consolidation of policy](#).