

HOQUIAM SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 28

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

In the summer of 2002 the Washington State Legislature passed a law that requires schools be prepared for a life-threatening event on the day the student starts school. Life threatening health conditions are any condition that could put the student in danger of dying during the school day. These conditions include but are not limited to bee sting or severe food allergies, diabetes, severe asthma, seizure disorders and certain heart conditions. On the first day of school attendance the following are required if a life threatening health condition exists: 1) provider orders for medication or treatment, 2) medication to be given at school, and 3) an emergency plan that will assist school personnel in exactly how to help your child in the event of a life threatening event.

Washington State Law, SHB 2834, now requires that the necessary order, medications, equipment and nursing plan must be in place before a student with a life threatening condition may attend school.

This law means that you must have health care provider orders completed, fill the prescription, and take all the supplies and paperwork to school before the first day the child attends. The school nurse will contact you if more information is needed.

The following steps may help you meet these requirements.

- Contact your child's health care provider to discuss whether your child has a life threatening health condition requiring a plan to be safe at school.
- Request that the health care provider sign the Authorization for Medication at School Form for medications or treatments needed at school. They are available in the office of each school and on the school district web site. Orders must be updated each year.
- Make sure that your signature and the health care provider's signature are on the form with current dates. This legal requirement also applies for all over-the-counter (OTC) medications.
- Fill any prescriptions for medications needed at school.
- Take all documents, medications, and any necessary equipment to your student's school prior to the first day of class.
- Talk with the school nurse to be sure the plan is appropriate for your child.

Please remember, Washington State law states that your child may not attend school until these steps are completed. We welcome your child at school and strive to ensure a safe learning experience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school nurse at (360) 538-8288. The nurse will be available the week before school starts.

Sincerely,
Melanie J Robertson BSN, RN