

POLICY TITLE: ADMINISTRATION OF STOCK BRONCHODILATORS IN SCHOOL		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE September 3, 2025	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED:	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED:
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY STUDENT		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the authority of school personnel to manage and coordinate the care of students who are, or are perceived to be experiencing asthma-related symptoms or respiratory distress and do not have a personal bronchodilator readily available at school pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-426.6 and § 7-426.7.

II. Definitions

- A. **Asthma** is a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows air passages, causing recurring periods of wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and coughing.
- B. **A bronchodilator** is a medication that relaxes bronchial muscles, resulting in the expansion of bronchial air passages to provide fast treatment of asthma-related symptoms and symptoms of respiratory distress. In this policy, “bronchodilator” refers to albuterol or albuterol sulfate, an orally inhaled medication that may be delivered via metered dose inhaler (MDI).
- C. **A stock bronchodilator** is a bronchodilator that is kept on hand in a school to be used in the event of an emergency when a student is, or is perceived to be, experiencing asthma-related symptoms or respiratory distress and the student does not have a bronchodilator of their own readily available.
- D. **School personnel** are individuals who are employed by a public school, including part-time employees, teachers, substitute teachers for at least seven (7) days each school year

III. . **Statement of Policy**

A. Under Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-426.6, public school nurses and other designated personnel who have undergone the training described above are authorized to administer a stock bronchodilator to a student who is, or is perceived to be experiencing asthma-related symptoms or is perceived to be in respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student:

- Has been diagnosed with asthma or reactive airway disease; or
- Has been prescribed a bronchodilator by an authorized licensed healthcare practitioner

B. Under Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-426.7, nonpublic schools may establish a policy to authorize school nurses and other designated school personnel to administer a stock bronchodilator to a student in the same circumstances.

C. Neither a school nurse nor any other designated school personnel may administer a stock bronchodilator to a prekindergarten student unless the student has been diagnosed with asthma or reactive airway disease and has a prescription (i.e. medication order) for a bronchodilator by a licensed healthcare practitioner.

D. Guidance related to the training requirements for school personnel, storage, maintenance and disposal of bronchodilators, administration of stock doses, recognizing the need to administer a bronchodilator and reporting of administration of bronchodilators are delineated in HCPS Health Services Nurse Practice Guidelines.

E. Parent/ guardian communications regarding implementation of this policy for their student shall follow HCPS Health Services Nurse Practice Guidelines for Asthma – Administration of Bronchodilators.

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION		DATE	ACTION		DATE
Adopted					

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References	
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME	JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER:
PERSON RESPONSIBLE	JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE
DESIGNEE NAME:	JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE
POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005:	

LEGAL REFERENCES¹

All references are set forth in the Policy.

¹ All references are to specific federal or Maryland statutes or regulations. References are provided for convenience and informational purposes only and are not to be considered as exhaustive or as precluding Harford County Public Schools from relying upon any other statutes or regulations in support of a policy.