

"Do Not Resuscitate" Requests

The greater inclusion of disabled students has led to an increase in the number of medically fragile students in schools. It is very rare for a student to be attending school in an advanced terminal condition, but it is not beyond the realm of possibility. A "Do Not Resuscitate" ("DNR") request is a written request of the parent and doctor that life sustaining emergency care not be performed for a severely disabled student.

Student health and safety is a primary concern of the district. In emergency situations involving accident or illness, employees are reasonably expected to render first-aid and life-sustaining care to the extent of their knowledge and training, utilize emergency medical resources available in the community and seek assistance of school medical personnel or other staff members more knowledgeable than themselves. Refusal by school staff to provide life-sustaining emergency care to a student in need would be extremely disruptive and disturbing to other students and staff at the school.

School personnel are usually not involved in the DNR decision process and may fall outside the protections it offers. A DNR order from a physician reflects an agreement reached between the child's parents and the medical care team and may be intended to affect the behavior of only those persons who take orders from the physician. In addition, school personnel are not specifically covered in the statutory immunity provisions afforded to emergency medical service personnel, health care providers and health care facilities.

Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Board that no student shall be denied the fullest appropriate efforts to preserve life and health. No DNR order shall be implemented and all DNR requests shall be denied. The denial shall be made in writing to the parent/guardian making the request and a copy of this policy shall be enclosed.

When a student with special health needs is enrolled, an Individualized Health Plan shall be prepared and reviewed at least annually by a multi-disciplinary school-based team. In the event that a parent and physician can demonstrate that unusual circumstances justify non-standard life-sustaining measures, an individually designed medical resuscitation plan may be incorporated into the Individualized Health Plan. It shall not deny all life-sustaining activities, but may describe emergency procedures appropriate to the individual student.

ADOPTION DATE: April 19, 2000

LEGAL REFS: C.R.S. 15-18.6-104 (Colorado duty to comply with CPR directives, immunity
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq. (Americans with Disabilities Act)
28 C.F.R 35.130(b)(6) (Regulations pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act)
29 U.S.C. 794 et seq. (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)
34 C.F.R. 104.4 (Regulations pertaining to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)