Management of Student Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders

The Watertown Board of Education (the “Board”) is committed to providing all students with immediate first aid and emergency rescue services as appropriate when a medical crisis and/or life threatening episode occurs at school. In a medical emergency, school staff will take all reasonable steps to preserve the life of all students, unless otherwise directed by a Connecticut licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse and parent/guardian of a student (or student age 18 or older) in connection with a Do Not Resuscitate (“DNR”) order that complies with applicable law.

To facilitate compliance with this Board Policy and applicable law, the Board directs the Watertown Public Schools (the “District”) Administration to develop administrative regulations regarding practices for ensuring safe and appropriate implementation of DNR Orders in the school setting.

Legal References:
Connecticut General Statutes
§ 19a-580d Do not resuscitate orders. Definition. Regulations
§ 52-557b Good Samaritan Law
§ 10-212d Availability of Automatic External Defibrillators in Schools

Regulations of Connecticut State
Agencies Department of Public Health § 19a-580d-1 et seq.

Additional Resources:

National Association of School Nurses, Position Statement, Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) – The Role of the School Nurse, (Revised 2018)

ADOPTED By BOE: 9.26.2023
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In accordance with the Watertown Board of Education (the “Board”) Policy Regarding Management of Do Not Resuscitate Orders, the District adopts the following administrative regulations.

District employees shall review these administrative regulations and are responsible for ensuring prompt and appropriate implementation. Questions about these administrative regulations, any related issues, and any specific situations that arise should be directed to the District’s Supervisor of School Health, Aishe Sariturk, RN @ 860-945-5176/or our Medical Advisor (TBA).

I. Definitions

The following definitions apply to these administrative regulations:

**Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** – an emergency medical procedure, including chest compressions, defibrillation, or breathing or ventilation by any assistive or mechanical means including, but not limited to, mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to-mask, endotracheal tube, or ventilator for a particular student.

**Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order** – an order written by a Connecticut licensed physician or APRN to withhold cardiopulmonary resuscitation (“CPR”) as defined in these administrative regulations.

**DNR Bracelet** – the bracelet approved by the Connecticut Department of Public Health for the transmission of a Do Not Resuscitate Order that is affixed to the student’s wrist or ankle or necklace.

**Emergency Care Plan (ECP)** – the plan developed to address the medical emergency needs of a student in the school setting.
**Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP)** – the plan developed to address a student’s healthcare needs in the school setting.

**District DNR Acknowledgement** – the signed acknowledgement of the student’s physician or APRN and parent/guardian of a student (or student age 18 or older) directing the District to withhold CPR in the school setting in accordance with the student’s DNR Order.

## II. Conditions for Implementation of DNR Orders by the District

DNR Orders will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The District will make the final decision regarding approval of the request to honor a DNR Order in the school environment, and reserves the right to rescind its approval to honor a DNR Order in the school environment upon notice to the parent/guardian of the student (or student age 18 or older).

1. In order to be considered by the District, the DNR Order must:
   - Be authored, signed and dated by a Connecticut licensed physician or APRN;
   - Be co-signed and dated by the parent/guardian of the student (or student age 18 or older);
   - Be time limited;
   - Contain the student’s name and date of birth;
   - State the conditions under which the DNR can be revoked; and
   - Be submitted with the District DNR Acknowledgement.

Upon receipt of a request to honor a DNR Order, the school nurse will obtain consent, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), from the parent/guardian of the student (or student age 18 or older) to permit the school nurse to share personally identifiable information about the student with EMS personnel as described in this procedure. Upon receipt of consent, the school nurse shall refer the DNR Order to the Supervisor of School Health, Aishe Sarituk, RN @ 860-945-5176/or our Medical Advisor (TBA), and/or contact local EMS personnel to coordinate implementation of the DNR Order with local EMS. The DNR Order cannot be implemented in the school environment without consent to communicate with EMS.

2. Upon receipt of a request to implement a DNR Order, the District shall convene a meeting in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (“Section 504”) to determine the student’s eligibility under Section 504, if necessary, and to review the DNR Order and District DNR Acknowledgement, and review and/or revise the student’s Section 504 plan, if necessary. If the student is already eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”), the student’s Planning and Placement Team (“PPT”) may convene, in lieu of a Section 504 team, if appropriate. In the event the student is not eligible under Section 504 or the IDEA, the school nurse shall convene a meeting with the parent/guardian, a school administrator, and any other relevant school personnel to review the DNR Order and
District DNR Acknowledgement. Hereinafter, the applicable team shall be referred to as the “School Team.” The school nurse shall be part of each School Team.

3. The School Team shall be responsible for ensuring that all required, fully executed documents are submitted before the DNR Order is implemented in the school environment. Thereafter, implementation of the DNR Order in the school environment shall not be unreasonably withheld.

4. Each student in the District with an active DNR Order and District DNR Acknowledgement shall have an updated Individualized Healthcare Plan (“IHP”) and Emergency Care Plan (“ECP”) to implement the DNR Order. The IHP and ECP shall be developed by the School Team, including the parent/guardian (or student age 18 or older). Local EMS personnel shall be consulted regarding the development and implementation of the IHP and ECP.

   • If the parent/guardian of the student (or student age 18 or older) declines to meet with the School Team to review the DNR Order and District DNR Acknowledgement, or declines to participate in the development and/or review of an IHP and ECP in accordance with these administrative regulations, the DNR Order will not be implemented by the District and this action will be documented in the student's file.

5. The District will not honor a DNR Order unless: a) the District DNR Acknowledgement form has been submitted; b) a DNR bracelet is in place on the student’s wrist or ankle; and c) a written IHP and ECP are in place for the student. The School Team shall ensure that these elements are met prior to implementation of the DNR Order in the school environment.

6. If not already in place, a full-time school nurse shall be assigned to the school where the student with the active DNR Order is in attendance.

III. Renewal or Revocation of the DNR Order

1. In order to remain effective, the District DNR Acknowledgement must be signed and renewed annually. The District DNR Acknowledgement expires automatically on June 30th of every year.

2. A parent/guardian of a student (or student age 18 or older) may revoke a request to implement a DNR Order at school at any time by:

   • Written request to the school nurse; or

   • Removal of the DNR bracelet from the student’s person; or
• An oral statement by the parent/guardian of the student (or student age 18 or older) asking staff to resuscitate the student.

3. Upon the student’s eighteenth birthday, a DNR Order signed or approved by the student’s parent/guardian will be considered invalid unless the parent/guardian demonstrates in writing to the school prior to the student’s eighteenth birthday that the parent/guardian has the legal authority to make educational and medical decisions for the adult student. A student 18 years of age or older may request the DNR Order be implemented by the school in accordance with these procedures.

4. The school nurse shall inform all school personnel with responsibility for implementing a DNR Order of any modification, revocation or non-renewal of any request to implement a DNR Order in the school environment.

5. The school nurse shall maintain documentation of all non-renewals or revocations of requests to implement DNR Orders in the student’s cumulative health record and shall ensure that any applicable plans be updated accordingly. Documentation of an oral statement asking staff to resuscitate the student shall include the date and time of the statement, the name of the person to whom the statement was made, the name of the person who made the statement, and the circumstances surrounding such statement.

IV. Requirements for Implementation of DNR Orders

1. The school nurse shall notify the Superintendent of Schools when a DNR Order is being implemented in the school environment.

2. The school nurse in the relevant school building, and any substitute school nurse, shall have the primary responsibility for monitoring and implementing the requirements of these administrative regulations. The school nurse or other CPR certified personnel trained to implement the DNR Order and the IHP/ECP shall be present at the student’s school or on school grounds at all times while the student is present at school or school related activity.

3. The school nurse will inform all CPR certified personnel in the school building of the DNR Order and how to implement the DNR Order and the IHP/ECP.

4. The school nurse is responsible for ensuring and documenting that all personnel who are informed of the DNR Order are trained to follow the expected procedure and plan. Documentation shall be maintained in the student’s cumulative health file.

5. Confidentiality concerning the existence and implementation of the DNR shall be maintained consistent with FERPA and applicable state law.

V. Contents of the IHP and ECP
The IHP and ECP shall clearly document the medical resuscitation plan and individually appropriate life-sustaining intervention steps to be followed in case of a medical emergency at the school, school sponsored activity or on school provided transportation. The IHP and ECP shall clearly document the requirement to call 911 in the case of a medical emergency. The School Team shall also consider including the following elements in the IHP and ECP, as appropriate:

- An explanation of the specific medical interventions that are prohibited by the DNR Order and an explanation of the palliative care (comfort measures) or other medical interventions that may be administered to the student during a medical emergency;

- A statement confirming that the student wears a DNR bracelet and the location of said bracelet, i.e., wrist or ankle;

- A plan for notification of EMS that the Student has a DNR Order;

- A determination of the staff and/or third parties who will be informed of the DNR Order, how and when said staff or third parties will be informed of the DNR Order, and a list of school personnel expected to follow the IHP, ECP and DNR Order;

- A statement identifying the training and support necessary for school personnel expected to follow the IHP, ECP, and/or DNR Order;

- A plan for response to an emergency situation, including when the school nurse is and is not available;

- A plan to contact the parent/guardian in case of a medical emergency, contact with EMS, or death;

- A protocol for isolating the student, as much as possible, from other students or school activities during a medical emergency;

- A plan to notify the Supervisor of Student Health/Medical Advisor and the Superintendent of Schools in the event death occurs at school.

- Appropriate transportation of the student to and from school while the DNR Order is effective;

- A plan for staff coverage during school sponsored activities if the school nurse is not present;

- A plan for handling a medical emergency at school, on school provided transportation or
during school sponsored activities;

- Guidelines for supporting other students in the classroom or activity during an emergency medical situation and thereafter;

- Documentation that the process by which a parent/guardian of a student (or student age 18 or older) can revoke consent for the DNR Order was discussed;

- A statement that the parent/guardian of the student (or student age 18 or older) was advised that anyone who is not directly informed about the DNR Order will otherwise follow Board and District policies and procedures and may initiate CPR;

- A statement that the District DNR Acknowledgement form must be signed and renewed annually. The form shall expire on June 30th of every year. DNR Orders may be renewed following the procedures in this protocol; and

- A timeline for review of the IHP and ECP, which shall not exceed one month.

VI. **Required Record-Keeping for DNR Orders**

In addition to record requirements identified in other applicable Board policies, the school nurse shall be responsible for maintaining the following records in the cumulative health file of a student with a DNR Order:

- A copy of the DNR Order;

- A copy of the fully executed District DNR Acknowledgement;

- A copy of the student’s current Section 504 plan or Individualized Education Program, if applicable, and current IHP and ECP;

- Documentation of training of personnel responsible for implementing the student’s IHP, ECP, and DNR Order;

- Documentation of all communication with the student’s physician, APRN, or parent/guardian (or student age 18 or older) regarding the DNR Order;

- Documentation of renewal of the DNR Order, if appropriate; and

- Documentation of revocation of the request to implement the DNR Order in the school environment, if appropriate, which shall include marking the DNR Order and District DNR Acknowledgement as REVOKED in large print across all pages and copies of the
document and notification of all school personnel responsible for implementing the DNR Order of the revocation.

Legal References:
Connecticut General Statutes
§ 19a-580d Do not resuscitate orders. Definition. Regulations
§ 52-557b Good Samaritan Law
§ 10-212d Availability of Automatic External Defibrillators in Schools

Regulations of Connecticut State
Agencies Department of Public Health § 19a-580d-1 et seq.

Additional Resources:

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ADOPTED by Board of Education 9.26.2023:

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