

New Law Authorizes Emergency Administration of Albuterol/Levalbuterol in School Settings

In May 2015, the Georgia General Assembly Senate Bill 126 (SB126) was passed to authorize elementary and secondary schools in public and private schools settings to stock a supply of albuterol/levalbuterol and administer to any child believed in good faith to be experiencing respiratory distress.

Components of the Amendment		
Authorization	Administration	Protections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary and secondary schools [Public and Private school settings] may stock albuterol/levalbuterol with a prescription. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, an advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant may prescribe levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate in the name of a public or private school. A pharmacist may dispense levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate to a public school or private school presenting a prescription. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer or provide for self-administration of albuterol/levalbuterol to any student believed in good faith to be experiencing a perceived respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for albuterol or levalbuterol. <p>School may designate an employee or agent of the public or private school to administer albuterol/levalbuterol to any student the employee or agent believes in good faith is experiencing a perceived respiratory distress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated employee or agent must complete required training in recognizing the symptoms of respiratory distress and the correct method of administering the albuterol/levalbuterol in accordance to the guidelines in the DPH Toolkit for the Administration of Epinephrine and Albuterol/Levalbuterol in the School Setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any school personnel who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer levalbuterol sulfate to a student pursuant to this Code section shall be immune from civil liability for any act or omission to act related to the administration of levalbuterol sulfate, except that such immunity shall not apply to an act of willful or wanton misconduct. Any licensed practitioner who prescribes levalbuterol sulfate for use by a school shall be immune from civil liability, except that such immunity shall not apply to an act of willful or wanton misconduct.

SB126 legislation can be found here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/154024.pdf>



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My school is interested in implementing but cost is an issue. Is there funding available for schools?

The anticipated annual cost of approximately \$50/year (nebulizer, tubing, albuterol) may be prohibitive for some schools. While there is not a general funding source for schools to purchase these supplies, we encourage schools/school systems to contact local pharmacies, providers and coalitions who may have programs or resources available.

Q: Are schools mandated to participate in stocking albuterol/levalbuterol?

No, SB126 provides *authorization* for schools to stock and administer albuterol/levalbuterol. Schools are not required or mandated to expand their current Emergency Medication policies/protocols to include albuterol/levalbuterol.

Q: Where do I find the recommended guidelines referred to in the law?

[Toolkit for the Administration of Epinephrine and Albuterol/Levalbuterol in the School Setting](#) provides school systems with guidelines in the development and implementation of policies related to stock Epinephrine Auto-Injector (Epi-Pen) and stock Albuterol/Levalbuterol in the school setting. The tool kit specifically addresses: 1) Medication administration; 2) Development of the Emergency Action Plan/Individualized Health Care Plan; 3) Stock Epinephrine in the School Setting for Treatment of Undiagnosed Severe Allergic Reactions/Anaphylaxis by School Personnel; 4) Stock Albuterol/Levalbuterol in the School Setting for Treatment of Perceived Respiratory Distress by School Personnel; and 5) Training requirements. For additional information, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/school-nurse-resources>

Q: Where are trainings offered?

Archived training webinars and trainer resources can be found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/school-nurse-resources>

Q: What are the minimum training requirements?

Trainings can be conducted online or in person and should cover the following basic requirements: (1) How to recognize signs and symptoms of respiratory distress; (2) Standards and procedures for the storage and administration of albuterol/levalbuterol; and (3) Emergency follow-up procedures.

Q: Does the law require that a school nurse administer the emergency medication?

A nurse is not required. Any properly trained school designee or agent may administer albuterol/levalbuterol in the event of respiratory distress.

Q: Are childcare settings included in the legislation?

No, at this time the legislation only applies to elementary and secondary school settings.

Q: How can my school obtain a prescription for emergency medication?

Schools may acquire a prescription from a licensed physician, registered nurse or physician assistant. Medical Directors in your local health department may also be a resource for obtaining a prescription.