

Emergency Epinephrine Act

Public Act 97-0361 allows schools to voluntarily maintain a supply of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors. Epinephrine can save a child's life by opening his or her airway until emergency personnel arrive. District 113A schools maintain a supply of emergency epinephrine in locked secure locations. The emergency epinephrine stored at school is not intended to replace epinephrine that has been prescribed to students with known allergies. Parents who have students with known allergies should notify the school's nurse to develop an Emergency Action Plan.

Under this Act, the nurse is authorized to do the following: 1) Provide an epinephrine auto-injector to a student, or any personnel authorized under a student's Emergency Action Plan or Section 504 Plan to administer an epinephrine auto-injector to the student, that meets the prescription on file; 2) Administer an epinephrine auto-injector that meets the prescription on file to any student who has an Emergency Action Plan or Section 504 Plan that authorizes the use of same; and 3) Administer an epinephrine auto-injector to any student that the nurse in good faith professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not the student has an Emergency Action Plan or Section 504 Plan in place.

Under Public Act 97-0361, a school district and its employees and agents, including physicians providing a standing protocol or prescription for school epinephrine auto-injectors, are to incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from the use of an epinephrine auto-injector, regardless of whether authorization was given by the student's parent/guardian or by the student's physician, physician's assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.