

The Policy Committee approved changes in blue at its public work sessions on 11/16/23 and 12/13/23.

File: JHC

DO NOT RESUSCITATE PROCEDURES ORDERS

I. Purpose

The Board of Education recognizes that it serves students with complex health needs. Policy JHC allows the Board of Education to accept and honor Do Not Resuscitate orders submitted by the parents/legal guardians of a student with a life-threatening health problem in accordance with this policy.

II. Background

The Board of Education recognizes that parents/legal guardians have the right to make decisions regarding health care measures for their children and that students with life threatening health problems may attend Washington County Public Schools ("WCPS") with valid Do Not Resuscitate orders.

It has been determined that public schools in Maryland should generally accept and follow a physician's instructions contained in a Do Not Resuscitate order from the parents/legal guardians of such students. Implementation of a Maryland Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment ("MOLST") form in the school setting must be individually evaluated and addressed on a case-by-case basis.

III. Definitions

Within the context of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. Do Not Resuscitate ("DNR"): ~~is defined as w~~Withholding of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), artificial ventilation, and other related life sustaining procedures in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest.
- B. Maryland Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment: A form, completed accurately and legibly, that includes medical orders for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other medical personnel regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other life sustaining treatment options for a specific student signed and dated by the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.
- C. School-Based Health Professional: A nurse practitioner, registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse who delivers care in a WCPS school.

IV. Policy Statement/Procedures

- A. The Board of Education will accept a DNR order that has been submitted by the parents/legal guardians of a student with a life-threatening health problem in accordance with state laws and regulations and the procedures set forth in the accompanying administrative regulation.
- B. A MOLST form or DNR order ~~is are~~ separate from other aspects of the student's care. Unless otherwise specified, there should be no implied or actual abandonment of other supportive care. School health staff shall continue to provide supportive care such as: administration of oxygen, suctioning, use of the Heimlich maneuver, control of bleeding and pain, and positioning for comfort.

- C. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to promulgate an administrative regulation to implement this policy.

This regulation addresses requirements that must be in place in order for two distinct groups, the school health staff and 911 emergency personnel, to honor DNR orders.

A. ~~Parent Responsibilities to Effect a DNR order honored by school staff~~

~~Planning for the Potential Use of the DNR order~~

- ~~1. The parent/guardian is responsible for providing an original DNR order from a physician licensed in the state of Maryland to the school where the student is enrolled.~~
- ~~2. The parent/guardian must also notify the school, in writing, of their agreement with the DNR order.~~
- ~~3. Both the physician and parent/guardian must provide a written statement affirming the continuance of the order and all its conditions annually at the beginning of the school year.~~
- ~~4. School staff will honor written DNR directives from the parent and physician. However, 911 emergency personnel will be called, as appropriate.~~

B. ~~Parent Responsibility to Effect a DNR order honored by 911 Emergency Personnel~~

~~Upon their arrival at school, the 911 emergency personnel will assume responsibility for the student's care. If the parent/guardian wishes to have the Emergency Medical Staff follow the DNR order, the following must be provided:~~

- ~~1. For the student under 18 years of age, an original DNR order, accurately completed and signed by a physician and the parent/guardian must be provided by the parent/guardian.
 - ~~a. The Maryland Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Order form must be used (Attachment 1).~~
 - ~~b. Assistance in obtaining the form is available from the school health services office.~~
 - ~~c. The parent may also wish to request the state issued DNR bracelet or medic alert emblem for the student to wear. The bracelet or medic alert emblem may be worn on the wrist (recommended) or hanging from a necklace. Information regarding the bracelet and medic alert emblem is found on the Maryland Emergency Medical Services Do No Resuscitate Order form.~~~~
- ~~2. When the student becomes 18 years of age, the student must authorize the DNR order. If the student lacks the capacity to make informed decisions about his/her health care, a certificate of incapacity signed by two physicians must be obtained in accordance with Health General Article, Section 5-606(a) of the Annotated Code of Maryland and a new EMS DNR Order must be signed by a physician and the parent, now considered a surrogate or guardian.~~
- ~~3. For EMS to honor the DNR, the EMS staff will request to see the DNR form even though the student may be wearing the state issued DNR bracelet or medic alert emblem.~~

C. ~~School Responsibility to Effect a DNR Order~~

~~After the DNR physician order and written parental agreement are obtained, the school nurse will be responsible for arranging a conference to outline the expectations and procedures for school/health staff to follow. The conference may include, in addition to the school nurse, the parent/guardian, the school principal/designee, the Washington County Health Department~~

~~School Health Supervisor, the Washington County Health Department School Health Manager, the Washington County Public School Director, and other individuals as deemed appropriate. During this conference:~~

- ~~1. The Do Not Resuscitate Individual Student Plan (Attachment 2) will be discussed and/or completed.~~
- ~~2. The Medical Emergency Protocol (Attachment 3) will be discussed and/or completed.~~
- ~~3. The parent/guardian should indicate who is to be informed of the DNR order. The parent/guardian should be advised that anyone who is not directly informed about the DNR order or is unaware of its meaning will initiate cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).~~
- ~~4. The school nurse is responsible for ensuring that all staff members listed on the Individual Student Plan, including transportation supervisor and routine bus personnel, are trained to follow the planned procedures. Other staff members, such as those trained in CPR, may be informed of the DNR, as deemed appropriate and with consent of the parents.~~

~~D. Activating the DNR order if physical deterioration occurs~~

~~Every effort should be made to transport the student at the first signs of a deteriorating condition as indicated on the medical Emergency Protocol (Attachment 3).~~

- ~~1. Contact the parents/guardians for direction.~~
- ~~2. If necessary, call 911 and follow the interventions previously established with the parents and physician (Medical Emergency Protocol, Attachment 3).~~
- ~~3. Provide comfort and supportive care, but do not initiate cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the event of a respiratory or cardiac arrest.~~
- ~~4. Have the original EMS DNR form available for EMS staff upon their arrival at school.~~
- ~~5. If aware that the student is a hospice patient, notify hospice, as appropriate.~~

~~E. Revocation of a DNR Order~~

~~The DNR order may be revoked at any time by:~~

- ~~1. Cancellation or destruction of the DNR order form with the consent of the parents/guardians or the student (if the authorized decision maker); or~~
- ~~2. An oral statement made directly to school health staff/EMS providers by the student, if still able to respond, or a request by the parents/guardians to request resuscitation. EMS personnel will not recognize an oral revocation made by anyone other than the student or parents/guardians.~~

~~F. Procedures for the death of a student at school~~

~~If the student dies before being transported from school, as normal an atmosphere as possible should be maintained throughout the school.~~

- ~~1. Contact the parents/guardian, physician, and other persons as designed on the student's plan.~~
- ~~2. Seclude the student's body in the health room (or other appropriate location).~~

3. ~~EMS will notify the local law enforcement agency and will remain with the body until the police arrive.~~
4. ~~The police will contact the student's personal physician to ascertain if he/she will sign the death certificate.~~
5. ~~Upon release by the police, follow the parent's instructions regarding transportation of the student's body.~~
6. ~~Secure the assistance of the crisis team as soon as possible.~~
7. ~~Notify the superintendent of schools, or designee, and the local health officer, or designee, if a student with a DNR order dies while in school.~~

G. Procedures for Student Distress/Death on the School Bus

~~If the student suffers distress or dies while being transported on the school bus:~~

1. ~~Stop the bus and following existing emergency guidelines.~~
2. ~~Call 911 and the transportation office.~~
3. ~~Alert EMS that the student has a DNR order and share it upon their arrival.~~
4. ~~Ask additional EMS staff or police personnel who may respond to remain on the scene as long as necessary to provide help with the needs of other students and staff.~~
5. ~~Notify the superintendent of schools, or designee, and the local health officer, or designee, if a student with a DNR order dies while in school or on the way to/from school.~~

Approved:

 Superintendent Date

 Health Officer Date

Policy adopted: July 22, 2003. [Revised:](#)
 Board of Education of Washington County