



Alachua County Public Schools - Health Services

Program Information

The Alachua County School District currently has 40 public school sites. A licensed nurse serves each school during school hours. In the event of a school nurse's absence, trained non-licensed staff may substitute.

Florida Statute 381.0056, "School Health Services Act", mandates the provision of the following services for Florida students:

- Emergency and first aid care
- Health appraisals, counseling, and referrals as needed
- Health consultation with guardians and health providers
- Nursing assessments
- Record reviews
- Nutrition assessments
- Vision and hearing screenings
- Growth and development screenings
- Scoliosis screenings (6th Grade)
- Preventive dental sealant program / dental screenings

The School Health Services Handbook, a resource for all staff and parents, is revised yearly and available on the SBAC website, www.sbac.edu. Refer to the Handbook for further details regarding the offered health services in our district.

The success of the school health program depends on your cooperation and interest.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

1. Keep the school informed of how to reach you in the event of an emergency. Keep your child's emergency information in Skyward up to date, with new **phone numbers** and addresses, any current medical conditions, and required procedures or medications.
2. Provide the school with a complete and current Florida Certificate of Immunization (Form 680) for your student.
3. Provide the school with documentation of a school entrance physical exam, which must be dated within one year prior to enrollment. The HRS Form 3040 is acceptable, as well as any reasonably documented physical form that includes assessment of each of the major body systems. This cannot be a note stating that the physician saw the child, nor a copy of the bill for the physical. Pre-kindergarten and Head Start physicals are acceptable.
4. Understand that school clinics are emergency first aid stations and are not meant for children to spend long periods of time there. We ask that you not send your child to school if he/she has a fever, virus, or any other contagious disease (i.e. Covid-19, the flu, lice, conjunctivitis, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.). If this occurs, a nurse or health care attendant will assess your child and contact you.

Medications:

The ACPS School Health Services program will administer medication to any student who requires that it be given during school hours. Students are not allowed to have medication on their person or in their belongings unless a specific self-carry request has been made. This self-carry allowance only applies to Epi-Pens, asthma rescue inhalers, insulin, and pancreatic enzymes, and would require a Self-Carry Authorization Form that must be completed by the parent/guardian. Non-prescription/over-the-counter

medications may be administered at the discretion of the school nurse, if the medication and signed Medication/Treatment Authorization form are provided. The school clinic does not keep a stock supply of over-the-counter medication. The following are the parent/guardian responsibilities for medication administration in school:

1. Prescription medications: Provide a supply of your child's prescription medication in its original container. The bottle must have a legible pharmacy label with the student's name, medication name, current dose, frequency, and the name of the prescribing physician. (Pharmacists will willingly give you an extra bottle with label for school use). You must accompany your child to school, bring the medication, and sign a consent form. We will then be able to administer the medication as prescribed. Many controlled substances require counting with a witness upon receipt.
2. Over-the-counter medications: Provide a supply of the medication in its original bottle. While the bottle does not need to be sealed and unused, the contents must match what the label states it is, and must be within date. No expired medication will be administered.
3. For liquid medication, please send a measuring spoon or cup marked with your child's name.
4. Nursing guidelines allow for medications to be given up to one hour before or one hour after the time listed on the prescription. This allows for special circumstances that might interfere with the exact timing of the medication (i.e., field trips, special programs, etc.). If this causes a medication problem, please state this in writing on the Medication/Treatment Authorization Form. Every effort will be made to have the medication administered by trained staff when a student is offsite or cannot visit the clinic.
5. All medications given at school must be accompanied by a signed Medication/Treatment Authorization Form, or a Self-Carry Form. These forms only apply for one school year and must be renewed annually and when there is a medication change.
6. Please be aware that if problems arise (i.e., a drug reaction, absence of nurse and trained personnel to give medications, etc.), you may be called at home or at work to make arrangements to care for your child. In the event of an emergency, 911 personnel will be dispatched to the school and the parent/guardian notified.
7. If there is a specific health concern or medication need for your student while at school, please call the school nurse. He/she will work out a plan of care with you to enable your child to attend school.