

Model Policy 516.5—Overdose Medication

Opioid overdoses are an increasing concern across the nation. In response, MSBA collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to create an MSBA/MASA model policy to assist schools that may have or are considering overdose medication availability.

Model Policy 516.5—Overdose Medication—offers guidance and support for Minnesota schools that choose to obtain, administer, and store Naloxone (Narcan), a medication “designed to help reverse the effects of an opioid overdose in minutes.” The introductory Note to *Model Policy 516.5* explains:

School districts are not required to adopt a policy on the use of emergency drugs for the treatment of drug-related overdoses. School districts and their employees are legally permitted to purchase, store, and administer Naloxone (Narcan) in response to an opiate overdose in schools and those who do assist with such administration are immune from civil liability as well as exempt from criminal prosecution from possession, use, etc. of a prescription medication, particularly to an individual to whom it was not prescribed. The provisions of this policy outline the requirements of the law with respect to the use of Naloxone (Narcan) in schools.

The Minnesota Department of Health is finalizing a web-based *Naloxone School Toolkit*, an extensive resource that will include valuable information on opioid overdose, emergency response procedures in school settings, sample protocol and procedure, Naloxone (Narcan) information, resources for education and staff training, resources for staff/student/parent prevention, and recovery and referral resources. MDH anticipates that its *Naloxone School Toolkit* will be available in mid- March.

MSBA Model Policy 516.5 is now available to all Minnesota schools for free. Schools have options if they wish to consider adoption of *Model Policy 516.5*:

1. Begin the policy adoption process now. In light of the three-meeting policy approval process set out in *MSBA/MASA Model Policy 208*, availability of the MDH Toolkit should align well with district’s policy review and adoption process.

- a. If a Policy Review committee (or similar committee) exists, the committee could begin the review process now.

2. Await publication of the MDH Toolkit before beginning the formal policy adoption process.