Plano Independent School District

School Health

Medical Emergency Response

**Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNR)**

**Administrative Guideline**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this guideline is to ensure the high quality, care, comfort and support of a DNR student during the time of his/her signs of deteriorating condition.

For staff members, including but not limited to, administrators, office staff, nurse and teachers will be able to identify their individual role during a student’s deteriorating condition.

#### Definitions

* DNR stands for “do not resuscitate” and is a commonly used abbreviation for a directive specifying that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) not be used in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest.
* DNR is an explicit directive based upon a decision made by an authorized person that extraordinary procedures should not be used to continue a human life.
* Do not resuscitate means refraining from initiating or continuing these medical measures:

1. Cardiac resuscitation medication
2. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
3. Transcutaneous cardiac pacing
4. Defibrillation
5. Advanced airway management
6. Artificial ventilation
7. Endotracheal intubation

* The procedures precluded by a DNR order DO NOT include authorization to withhold medical interventions or emergency care or therapies considered necessary to provide comfort or pain control or to provide water or nutrition. Texas Health and Safety Code §674.001(14).

*Accepting DNR orders does not mean or even imply, abandonment of other supportive care such as administration of oxygen, suctioning, use of the Heimlich maneuver for an obstructed airway, control of bleeding and pain, and positioning for comfort. Holding and comforting a dying child is not only acceptable, but desirable, regardless of the setting.*

* There are two types of DNR orders in Texas:
  1. In Hospital
  2. Out-of-Hospital
     + The Out-of-Hospital DNR orders are the ones that would arguably include the public school setting. An Out-of-Hospital DNR order is a legally binding document, prepared and signed by the attending physician.
* Health professionals in the Texas public schools are required to comply with validly executed Out-of-Hospital DNR orders.
  + 1. Health care professionals refers to physicians, nurses and emergency medical services personnel, and unless the context requires otherwise, includes hospital emergency personnel [Texas Health and Safety Code § 674.001(11)].

b. No other persons are required by the statute to comply with an Out-of-Hospital DNR order.

* DNR orders are not directed at school district employees other than **health care professionals**, (i.e., school nurses).

###### Procedural Guidelines for implementing DNR orders:

1. Parent/guardian/managing conservator requests that the school district honor a DNR order.

2. The parents are provided with the following legal requirements for a DNR order.

* + 1. The original document of a properly executed Texas Department of Health Out-of-Hospital Do Not Resuscitate Order that is prepared and signed by the attending physician and legally authorized (this form must contain the colored DNR logo).
    2. The presence of a necklace or bracelet DNR identification device that will be found on the individual to whom the order refers.

3. The parents are informed that appropriate planning and training must take place prior to the acceptance of the DNR request. Each DNR order in the school setting must be individually evaluated and addressed on a case-by-case basis.

1. A planning meeting is scheduled with the parents, appropriate school personnel, school nurse, and coordinator of district health services.

An individualized student DNR/emergency care plan is written, agreed upon and signed by the parent, principal, physician and school nurse. Specific procedures will be developed as part of this plan. Areas to be included:

1. Permissible palliative care of the student.
2. What medical interventions can and cannot be done for the student and under what conditions.
3. Whom to contact in the case of an emergency situation.
4. The steps to be taken in the case of impending or actual death.
5. Parent and school communications with EMS to develop appropriate protocols.
6. School transportation protocol in case of an emergency episode on the school bus.
7. Plans for training and/or supporting the school staff and the student’s peers.
8. Communication and collaboration with the family.
9. Emotional support of the student and the family, and school personnel.
10. Hospice protocol, if indicated.
11. Pronouncement of death and transport from the school (if EMS will not transport the child’s body to the nearest hospital).
12. Student confidentiality must be maintained as desired by the student and family. For minor student, the parent has the ultimate authority in deciding who is to be informed. In general, it is suggested that the following persons be informed of the DNR order: All school nursing health personnel and other school health providers assigned to the student’s school, the student’s teacher(s), and school bus personnel, all school-based administrators, any CPR/AED trained school staff, local EMS personnel, and the school district administration. A listing of who is to be informed of the order should be included in the written plan. The school nurse determines when activating the DNR order is appropriate, but should ensure that all staff members who are informed of the DNR order are trained to respond appropriately when the child shows signs of distress. The school nurse is responsible for educating any of the student’s personnel changes throughout the school year.

6. The DNR order and related Individual Health Care Plan must be reviewed at the beginning of each school year and should be periodically reviewed with the parent, the appropriate school personnel, school nurse, physician and emergency support throughout the year.

**Procedural Guidelines for DNR**

1. Every effort should be made to transport the student from school at the first signs of deteriorating condition.
2. If the student suffers distress, summon EMS (911) and follow the Individual Health Care/Emergency Plan for DNR order previously established with the physician, parent, school personnel, school nurse and coordinator of district health services.
3. Contact parent.
4. When EMS arrives, the original DNR is presented to the EMS personnel. The original Texas Out-of-Hospital DNR form containing the colored DNR logo should remain with the patient. Duplicates may be made by the patient, health care provider organization or attending physician as necessary for placement in the patient’s medical record or for ordering of identification devices. Copies of the document lacking the colored DNR logo will not be honored by responding health care professionals.
5. The presence of a Texas DNR identification device on a person is sufficient evidence that the individual has a valid Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order. Therefore, either the form with the colored Texas logo or the device is sufficient evidence of the existence of the order.
6. In the absence of the original Texas form, containing the colored DNR logo OR an approved identification device with the colored Texas DNR logo, all responding health care professionals will initiate FULL resuscitative efforts unless there is obvious indication of death per local policy.
7. If the student dies prior to being transported from school, seclude the student in a private area, while maintaining as normal an atmosphere as possible in the rest of the building. Follow pre-arranged plan for transport.
8. Appropriate school district personnel should be notified (superintendent, deputy superintendent, area superintendent, communications department, and coordinator of district health services).
9. Secure the assistance of a crisis intervention team.
10. Revocation: The Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order may be revoked at ANY time by the patient, legal guardian/proxy/DPAHC or qualified relatives. The revocation will involve a revocation in writing from the parent, legal guardian/proxy/DPAHC or qualified relative, communication of wishes to responding health care professionals, destruction of the original form, and removal of any DNR identification devices the patient may possess. The written revocation will be kept in the student cum folder.

**Special Considerations**

1. Training should be provided to the building and transportation personnel.

1. Training should include the specifics of the student’s condition and the Individual Health Plan/Emergency Care procedures.
2. An explanation of the legal statutes and definitions of a DNR order should be included.
3. Training should include information on death as a part of life, what might be expected at the time of death and the availability of support (EMS, Hospice per individualized plan).

1. The principal can assist in the access of the district crisis support team, as needed, to provide support for the students and staff.

2. Contact should be made with the local EMS services to inform them that a student at the school has a legally executed DNR order. A review of the school protocol with the EMS personnel is desirable.

* 1. A determination should be made if the EMS will always provide transport for the designated student. Otherwise, arrangements should be made with the medical examiner’s or coroner’s offices, should a confirmation of death be required. Also, arrangements should be made with the family as to the mortuary that may need to be called, if parents cannot be reached.

**Medical Director**:

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Physician Signature/Plano ISD Medical Officer