

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2120
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-2120

SUPTS. MEMO NO. 54
August 16, 2002

Administrative

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Jo Lynne DeMary
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Policy Regarding Medication Recommendation by
School Personnel

The 2002 session of the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation directing the Board of Education to develop and implement policies regarding medication recommendations by school personnel (Code of Virginia §22.1-274.3).

To comply with this legislation, the Board of Education approved the following policy to become effective on July 1, 2002. School personnel are prohibited from recommending the use of psychotropic medications for any student. School health staff, classroom teachers, or other school professionals may recommend that a student is evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner. In addition, school personnel may consult with a medical practitioner who is serving the student with the written consent of the student's parent.

Local school boards and state-operated programs shall review their policies and procedures to ensure compliance with this policy of the Board of Education and the expectations of the General Assembly.

For the purpose of this policy, "psychotropic medications" means those medications that are prescribed with the intention of altering mental activity or state, including, but not limited to, antipsychotic, antidepressant, and anxiolytic medication and behavior-altering medication.

Local school board policies and procedures must be reviewed to ensure compliance with this policy. Instructional personnel must be advised of the Board of Education's policy.

The section, "General Guidelines for Administering Medication at School" in the *Virginia School Health Guidelines* (1999) can be used to assist in developing medication policies in local school divisions.

Should you have additional questions please contact Gwen P. Smith, School Health Specialist at (804) 786-8671 or
mailto: gsmith@mail.vak12ed.edu.

JLD/gps