Policy on Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders

The purpose of this document is to set forth policy and administrative regulations for the implementation of Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders in the Fairfield schools.

In the event that a “Do Not Resuscitate” (DNR) Order is received from a licensed physician for a student in the Fairfield schools, the school nursing staff, under the aegis of the Fairfield Health Department, will honor the order providing the following criteria are met:

1. A written, original Do Not Resuscitate Order from the student’s physician is on file in the student’s health record.

2. A written, original authorization for the Do Not Resuscitate Order signed by a parent or legal guardian of the student is on file in the student’s health record.

3. A valid DNR bracelet is in place on the student.

4. A written individualized health care plan and emergency medical care plan is in place.

5. A registered nurse shall be in the school where the student with the DNR order is in attendance to manage the student’s care and carry out the Order.
Administrative Regulations

A registry of Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders shall be kept and maintained by the nursing supervisor. This registry shall contain the following information and the procedures below shall be followed to implement a DNR order:

1. Do Not Resuscitate orders shall be defined as they are defined in Section 19a-580-d-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

   “Do Not Resuscitate order” or “DNR order” means an order written by a Connecticut licensed physician to withhold cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including chest compressions, defibrillation, or breathing or ventilation by any assistive or mechanical means including, but not limited to, mouth-to-mouth, mouth-to-mask, bag-valve mask, endotracheal tube, or ventilator for a particular patient.”

Further, a DNR Order can include a limitation of treatment order that specifically designates the declining by the parent/legal guardian or emancipated student of certain life-sustaining treatments other than or in addition to cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures for the student.

2. At the request of a parent/legal guardian or physician for a student or upon receipt of a DNR Order, whichever happens first, the school nurse in consultation with the nursing supervisor and school medical advisor shall convene a meeting of all appropriate persons to discuss an individualized health care plan and an emergency medical care plan for the student.

3. Appropriate persons should include, but are not limited to:
   a) the parent or parents/legal guardian(s) of the student
   b) the student if emancipated or if otherwise deemed appropriate
   c) the school nurse
   d) representative of the emergency medical service provider
   e) the student’s teacher or teachers
   f) the principal or assistant principal of the school that the student attends
   g) a representative of the transportation company that provides regular transportation for the student

4. Upon receipt of a DNR Order, the Order shall be reviewed by the school nurse, nursing supervisor, and the school medical advisor.

5. Any DNR order received shall comply with the following criteria:
   a) it must be in writing and addressed to the Fairfield schools
   b) it must be an original document
   c) it must not contain any abbreviations
   d) it must contain the individual student’s name and date of birth
e) it must be time limited and contain a specific date for its expiration. The duration of the DNR order may not extend beyond the current school year.

f) it must be signed and dated by a physician licensed to practice in the State of Connecticut.

g) it must be accompanied by an original, written authorization for the DNR Order signed and dated by the student’s parent or legal guardian.

h) the legal guardian of the student must present authentication of his or her authority to act for the student in the form of:

1) an appointment by a probate court
2) an order of the Superior Court regarding guardianship of the person of the student
3) a copy of the birth certificate of the student

i) if the student shall become emancipated during the pendency of any DNR Order, the DNR Order shall state whether or not it shall be effective for the entire term or terminate when the student becomes emancipated.

j) When the student becomes emancipated, the authorization for the DNR Order must be signed by the student. A review of the DNR Order and Individualized Health Care Plan shall take place within three months prior to the student’s eighteenth birthday.

6. A DNR Order may be revoked by the parent/legal guardian/student in any of the following ways:

a) removing the bracelet from the student’s extremity, or

b) telling the school nurse, or certified emergency medical technician in the event that the emergency medical technician is in charge. Such school nurse shall notify the student’s physician who issued the order and shall document the contents of the statement in the student’s school health record.

7. A DNR Order shall be revoked upon order of the student’s physician received in writing or, if received verbally by the school nurse, followed in writing within 24 hours.

8. A valid DNR bracelet is one which complies with requirements set forth in Section 19a-580d-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as follows:

a) it shall be of a design approved by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health

b) it shall be affixed to the student’s wrist or ankle

c) it shall display the student’s name and attending physician’s name

d) it shall not have been cut or broken at any time
9. After receipt, review and verification as necessary of a DNR order and meeting with appropriate persons as described above, an individualized health care plan and medical emergency plan shall be developed and implemented by the school nurse.

The individualized health care plan shall include but not be limited to, the following criteria:

a) a means of identifying the student as having a DNR order
b) a means and timetable for providing instruction to the school staff regarding details of the student’s individualized health care plan and emergency medical care plan
c) a description of the types of treatments, interventions and monitoring of the DNR bracelet, when appropriate, which will be provided to the student while at school in the event of an emergency, including permissible care
d) a schedule for periodic assessment of the student’s health status by the nurse with guidelines for removal of the student from class activities and/or the school
e) a designated location within the school where the student may have privacy and the school nurse can provide appropriate comfort measures
f) a plan including phone numbers for notification of family, student’s physician, other medical personnel, and the student’s school transportation service
g) a plan for when and in what way an EMS system will be utilized
h) specific transportation plan for transporting a student to a designated location if cardio-pulmonary arrest occurs at school
i) specific plans if cardio-pulmonary arrest occurs for where and who will pronounce death if necessary
j) supportive services designated to help the family and school community deal with the student’s death
k) a schedule for the periodic review of the individualized health care plan by the school nurse and the parents on an as-needed basis, but at least monthly, while the student is attending school
l) recognition within the plan that the DNR order may be revoked by the parent or legal guardian or student or student’s physician as stated in # 6 and #7 above
m) delineate the steps for documentation that the DNR order has been revoked and the method of revocation
n) the specific steps to be taken to notify parents, authorized personnel, the student’s physician, EMS personnel, the school nurse and school staff members that the DNR order has been revoked
o) the school nurse shall be responsible for activation of the DNR order in the event of an emergency. In the event that the student is accompanied by a private duty nurse, or by a parent/legal guardian in place of a private duty nurse, that person shall be responsible for activating the DNR order in the
event of an emergency. When a DNR order is activated, the school nurse, nursing supervisor and school principal shall be notified as soon as feasible.

p) In the event that
   - the student is accompanied by a private duty nurse who is an RN, the private duty nurse assumes charge of the student’s emergency care and the school nurse assists as needed.
   - the student is accompanied by a private duty nurse who is an LPN, the school nurse assumes charge of the student’s emergency care and the private duty LPN assists.
   - the parent/legal guardian accompanies the student in place of the private duty nurse, the school nurse takes charge of the student’s emergency care and the parent may assist.

q) In the event of a crisis, if a student is not wearing a DNR bracelet, the school shall not be liable if EMS personnel or any school personnel implement resuscitation procedures on the student. Under these circumstances, school personnel can only assume that the DNR order has been revoked.

r) A listing of who is to be informed of the DNR order

10. The school nurse shall ensure that all staff members who are informed of the DNR order are trained to respond appropriately to a change in the student’s status.

11. The original DNR Order, individualized health care plan, and emergency medical plan shall be filed in the student’s school health record.

12. The following information shall also be maintained as registry information by the nursing supervisor:
   a) The date the DNR Order was issued by the physician.
   b) The date the DNR Order was authorized by the parent or legal guardian or emancipated student
   c) The first date the DNR Order was received by any person connected with the Fairfield school system.
   d) The date the DNR Order was received by the school nurse.
   e) The date of expiration of the DNR Order.
   f) A date, no less than sixty days prior to the expiration date, for diary purposes to review the DNR Order with appropriate persons
   g) The school in which the child is enrolled at the time the Order is issued.
h) The school in which the student will be taught in the following school year.

i) The name, address, telephone number and emergency number for the parent or legal guardian of the student.

j) The name, address, telephone number and emergency number of the physician for the student.

k) The name, address, telephone number and emergency number of the physician issuing the DNR order.

l) The name, address and telephone number of the emergency medical service that would provide transportation for the student from the school premises in the event of an emergency.

m) The name, address and telephone and emergency number of the school transportation service providing regular transportation to the student, if any.

13. This registry shall be kept on both a searchable data base and in hard copy, and sorted by student name, school, and EMS provider and student transportation provider.

SHM, Vol.II, Sec. 4, Spec. Hlth. Care Needs