

Policy Concerning “Do Not Resuscitate” Requests

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A primary concern of all school unit employees shall be student health and safety. In emergency situations involving accident or illness, employees shall be reasonably expected to render first-aid and life-sustaining care to the extent of their knowledge and training, and to seek assistance of school medical personnel or other staff members more knowledgeable than themselves and emergency medical resources (including ambulance) available in the community. Implementation of a “Do Not Resuscitate” (“DNR”) request is not consistent with this policy.

When a student with special health needs is enrolled, an Individualized Health Plan (I.H.P.) shall be prepared and reviewed at least annually as part of the Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P.) of the Pupil Evaluation Team (P.E.T.) for educationally disable students. If a student does not have a P.E.T., an appropriately constituted multidisciplinary school-based team, involving the parents and consultation with the school physician, shall annually prepare an I.H.P.

In the event of a receipt of a written “DNR” request from any student’s parent/guardian and physician, a Pupil Evaluation Team (P.E.T.) is to be formed, if necessary, and convened as soon as practical. The purpose shall be to review the student’s current program and placement to determine appropriateness. The school physician shall be consulted, and other specialist consultations shall be obtained as appropriate. The program in effect at the time of the request shall remain in effect in accordance with applicable law and regulations, unless and until changed by the P.E.T. or by following due process procedures.

In the rare event that parent and physician can demonstrate to the P.E.T. that special circumstances justify alternate life-sustaining approaches, an individually designed medial resuscitation plan may be incorporated into the I.H.P. for life-threatening situations. It shall not deny all life-sustaining activities, but may describe emergency procedures appropriate to the individual student. Specialists shall be included in development of the plan and in training for implementation as needed. Any such specific response plan must be adopted by the P.E.T. and signed by all members.

It is the intent of the board that the underlying principle of any response to a “DNR” request shall be that no student is to be denied the fullest genuine, appropriate efforts to preserve life and health.

Adopted: Castine School Committee - March 7, 1995, 4/14/95
Blue Hill School Committee - January 10, 1996