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Medication Protocols Change in FSPS

Schools will no longer administer morning doses of student medication

**At a Glance**

* Parents will have to administer the morning dose of student medication.
* School nurses, only members of school staff allowed to receive student medication
* Mid-day doses will be administered at specified times in each building.

**Fort Smith, AR,** August 1, 2018 — Parents of Fort Smith Public Schools students who require medication during the school day will have new guidelines to follow on the first day of school.

FSPS Nurse Cindy Mitchell said, “Changes have been made to the medication administration protocol for Fort Smith Public Schools as a result of new School Nurse Practice Guidelines from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.”

One primary change is that school personnel will no longer give medications in the morning at school. For parents, this means that they must be administer morning medication before a student arrives at school. Because guidelines require that medications be received and administered by a nurse, medication given around the lunch break will be administered by the school nurses at a specific time at each building.

A second change to procedure will require parents to make an appointment to deliver any student medication to a school nurse. Mitchell said, “Students are no longer allowed to bring their medications to school and secretaries will no longer be accepting medications in the place of the nurse.” She asked parents to consider speaking to the child’s physician about the possibility of a using a long-acting medication that can be given at home instead of during the school day, and noted that secretaries and administrators will be able to continue to assist with administration of inhalers and epi-pens as needed.

Fort Smith Public Schools nurses will be available at specific times on August 10 to receive medications. Please check the calendar on the school webpage or contact a child’s school for this information. If unable to deliver a student's medication during these specified times, parents may arrange an appointment with the nurse.

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**About Fort Smith Public Schools**

From unmanned aerial systems programming to unforgettable kindergarten trips to the farm,

Fort Smith Public Schools provides incredible opportunities and strong instruction for each of the almost 15,000 students in its 19 neighborhood elementary schools, four junior high schools, two senior high schools, one alternative learning center and one adult education center. With nationally recognized schools, students, educators and organizations, Fort Smith Public Schools are always the best choice. For information, visit [www.fortsmithschools.org](http://www.fortsmithschools.org)