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## Special Points of Interest:

*New Legislation*

*Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools*

We're on the Web! <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320768>



## NEW LEGISLATION



**[AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN SCHOOLS](#)** (Public Act 09-94; signed by the Governor 6/2/09; Public Health Committee) requires local or regional boards of education to have at each school in their jurisdiction, if funding is available: (1) an automatic external defibrillator (AED) and (2) school staff trained in its use and in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The act allows such boards to accept donated AEDs under certain conditions. It also allows such boards to accept gifts, donations, and grants for AED acquisition and staff training costs. The act further requires each school to develop an emergency action response plan addressing the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergencies. **[An Act Concerning Automatic External Defibrillators](#)** (Public Act 09-59; signed by the Governor 5/20/09; Judiciary Committee), also adopted this session, provides immunity in a lawsuit for damages for acts arising out of a person's or entity's negligence in providing or maintaining an AED. It specifies that immunity does not apply to gross, willful or wanton negligence. This 2009 education related bill can be accessed at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320336>. Additional guidance will be provided in September 2009.

**[AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ASTHMATIC INHALERS AND EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS WHILE AT SCHOOL](#)** (Public Act 09-155; Public Health Committee) requires the State Department of Education to adopt regulations to permit children diagnosed with either asthma or an allergic condition to retain possession of asthmatic inhalers and automatic pre-filled cartridge injectors at all times while attending school provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse. Once the new regulations are adopted, further information/guidance will be provided. In addition, this act as amended requires local and regional boards of education to make available on either the board's or each school's Web site the district's plan for managing students with life-threatening food allergies. If such Web sites do not exist, the board must make the plan publicly available by some other means that it selects. The act also requires boards to provide notice about the plans along with the written statement about pesticide applications that they must, under Section 10-231c of the Connecticut General Statutes, provide parents and guardians. School superintendents must attest annually to the State Education Department that their districts are implementing these plans. This education related bill can be accessed at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320336>.

**[AN ACT CONCERNING GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS](#)** (Public Act 09-81; signed by the Governor on 6/20/09; Education Committee) requires each local and regional board of education to implement a green cleaning program for the cleaning and maintenance of its schools, by July 1, 2011. The act requires school districts to use cleaning products inside their schools that (1) meet guidelines or standards set by a national or international certification program approved by the Department of Administrative Services in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and (2) as much as possible, minimize potential harmful effects on human health and the environment. In addition, the act contains a number of new reporting requirements for districts pertaining to green cleaning programs. This education related bill can be accessed at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320336>.

## REMINDER...

### **Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools**

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in collaboration with the State Department of Public Health has developed *Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools* to assist Connecticut public school districts and nonpublic schools (that are served pursuant to Connecticut General Statute (CGS) Section 10-217a) in effectively managing the health and safety needs of children with life-threatening allergic conditions. **While this document speaks to food allergy management, concepts may be utilized for any allergy issues that requires management in school environments.** All school districts can expect, at some time, to have students with life-threatening food allergies enrolled in their schools. Therefore, each district shall **develop** and **implement** a Food Allergy Management Plan that focuses on prevention and an appropriate response should an emergency occur (see CGS Section 10-212c. Life-threatening food allergies: Guidelines; district plans). This plan may be adopted into policy and procedures at the district level. Using the districtwide plan as a guide, each school must develop processes to identify all students with food allergies and develop and implement an Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) and Emergency Care Plan (ECP) for each student. *Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools* is located on the CSDE Health Promotion Services / School Nurse Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320768> (scroll down to the "Publications").

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT...

### **Recognizing and Managing Seizures Within the School Setting**

Join EP LiveOnline™ on August 11, 2009, for a seminar that discusses what educators, school administrators, nurses and families need to know about seizures. Focus is on the need for a seizure readiness plan within the school setting, including tips on medication administration in this setting and information on the efficacy and safety of medications. Registration information can be accessed at [http://www.epliveonline.org/ep\\_20090811.html](http://www.epliveonline.org/ep_20090811.html).

### **STEPHANIE KNUTSON, MSN, RN SCHOOL HEALTH CONSULTANT**

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## IN THE NEWS...

### **Governor Rell: Stimulus Funds to Support Loan Repayment Program for Medical Students**

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced that dozens of doctors, nurses, dentists and other primary care health professionals who agree to practice in the state's underserved and rural areas following graduation may be eligible for \$50,000 to help repay their student loans through a federal stimulus-funded program. Primary care professions that may be eligible for the funding include:

Medical (MD) or Osteopathic (DO) Physician;  
Primary Care Nurse Practitioner;  
Certified Nurse-Midwife;  
Primary Care Physician Assistant;  
Dentist;  
Dental Hygienist;  
Health Service Psychologist;  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker;  
Psychiatric Nurse Specialist;  
Marriage and Family Therapist; and  
Licensed Professional Counselor.



Those health care professionals interested in participating in the program may call 1-800-221-9393 or access <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/>. Application deadline is September 30, 2010. For information on the ARRA programs in Connecticut visit the state's stimulus Web site at [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov) and click on the "CT Recovery" link. You may access the full document at <http://www.recovery.ct.gov/recovery/cwp/view.asp?A=3711&Q=441954>.

## **Nondiscrimination Statement**

*The State of Connecticut Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries regarding the Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Affirmative Action Administrator, State of Connecticut Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1543, 860-807-2071.*