



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

December 1, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
131 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Report on Implementation Guidelines for Students with Sickle Cell Disease (MSAR #12247)

Dear Senator Pinsky and Delegate Kaiser:

Pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 385 of the Acts of 2018, the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health are required to report on or before December 1, 2020, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means on the development of guidelines, technical assistance, and the monitoring process to implement the Guidelines for Students with Sickle Cell Disease.

This report includes the process for the development of the guidelines, the technical assistance provided for the implementation of the guidelines, and the process for monitoring the implementation of the guidelines in the schools. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Zachary Hands, Director, Educational Policy and Government Relations at (410)-767-0504 or at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov.

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

C: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)
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Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy

**Implementation of State School Health Services Guidelines –
Public Schools – Students with Sickle Cell Disease**

**Presented by the
Maryland State Department of Education**

December 1, 2020

**Larry Hogan
Governor**

**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools**



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Public Schools – Students with Sickle Cell Disease**

Table of Contents

Introduction and Overview4

Overview and Development of the Guidelines 4

Implementation of the Sickle Cell Disease Guidelines and State Training5

Monitoring Process of Guidelines Implementation5

Summary.....6

Implementation of State School Health Services Guidelines – Public Schools – Students with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

Introduction

The Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article § 7-444 – *Guidelines* required the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to jointly develop guidelines for public schools regarding the administration of health care services to students with sickle cell disease on or before August 1, 2019. The legislation also required that technical assistance be provided to schools on or before September 1, 2019, on the implementation of the guidelines. The third requirement was the development of a process to monitor that implementation. A report on these items is due to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means on or before December 1, 2020.

This report provides the requested information. The report includes an overview and brief summary of the process to develop and publish the school health services guidelines, State training (conducted by the MSDE and MDH) provided to the local school health services coordinators, and the certification process to verify implementation of the mandate in the 24 local school systems, including the SEED School.

Overview and The Development of the SCD Guidelines

The Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-401 School Health Program requires the MSDE and the MDH to jointly develop public standards and guidelines for school health programs. Per the mandate, each county board with the assistance of the local county health department is required to provide adequate school health services including the provision for health education instruction, to explain the importance of physical activity to maintain good health, and to provide a healthful school environment. The mandate also requires the development of public standards and guidelines for school health services, including offering assistance to county boards and county health departments in the implementation of school health services guidelines.

The State school health guidelines development process is led by the MSDE and the MDH school health services staff. The committee membership is composed of a variety of lead school health services specialists, content experts, parents/advocates, and health care providers experienced in the care of children with special health care needs and chronic disease management. The committee typically meets regularly throughout each school year from September through May, and occasionally during the summer months as needed. During the

development of the Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) guidelines, the committee met regularly every two to four weeks. The representation of the SCD guidelines meeting included physicians and nurses experienced in the care and treatment of children diagnosed with SCD, local school health services coordinators from the various regions of the state, healthcare providers with expertise in the care of children with special health care needs, parents of children diagnosed with SCD, local school administrators/other local school staff, and various organizations/advisory councils with expertise in the management and care of school age children diagnosed with hereditary and congenital disorders such as SCD. The guideline entitled *Management of Sickle Cell Disease in Schools* was approved for legal sufficiency and published in June 2019, and can be found on the MSDE website at

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DSFSS/SSSP/SHS/SHSGuidelines/SickleCellDiseaseGuidelines.pdf>.

Implementation of the Sickle Cell Disease Guidelines and State Training Process

Between June 2019 and August 2019, the MSDE and the MDH provided in person and virtual trainings to the lead school health services coordinators in order to provide the technical assistance necessary so they could effectively implement the guidelines. An in-person statewide training for school nurses was hosted at the annual School Health Interdisciplinary Program Conference (SHIP) on August 6, 2019. A Power Point presentation available on the MSDE website at

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DSFSS/SSSP/SHS/SickleCellDiseaseVideo.aspx>

was created for all trainings and was aligned with the published guidelines. The Power Point included the following information for school nurses:

- Background information about the management of SCD
- Implementation of the nursing process for the management of students diagnosed with SCD including:
 - Recognition of SCD signs/symptoms requiring action;
 - Development and implementation of individualized health care plans and Emergency care plans; and
 - Evaluation of care plans for continuity of care for students with a SCD diagnosis.

The Monitoring Process

The MSDE and the MDH are responsible for monitoring the implementation process and supporting the local school health services coordinator. In order to monitor the implementation of the guidelines the MSDE includes the review of the guidelines monitoring and

implementation during scheduled student services onsite reviews, including review of documentation of local training to school staff about SCD management in the school setting.

Each of the 24 local school systems and the SEED School were also required to provide written verification/certification of the completion of the SCD guidelines implementation and training for all school staff. The SCD training is ongoing and as needed throughout the school year and again annually to ensure the necessary management and care for students diagnosed with SCD. A recording of the PowerPoint presentation training session is available on the MSDE website at [Management of Sickle Cell Disease Video](#) for ongoing statewide training to local school health services staff and other school personnel needing information about the care and management of students with SCD in the school setting.

Summary

Additional information related the school health services guidelines, *Management of Sickle Cell Disease* is available on the MSDE website at [Management of Sickle Cell Disease in Schools \(June 2019\)](#). The MSDE acknowledges the strong relationship between academic achievement and the child's overall health, including physical, emotional, and mental health. The implementation of the State guidelines for the management of SCD in the school setting serves to provide an environment for students to remain safe in school; be supported for optimal academic achievement; and fully participate in all aspects of school programming, including after-school activities and other school-sponsored events. The foundation for providing adequate school health services is an important component for the case management of students with SCD and other acute or chronic health needs.



Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy

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