



Kathleen R. DeCataldo, Esq.
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Student Support Services
89 Washington Avenue, Room 318-M EB
Phone: (518) 486-6090 Web: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/>

Date: July 19, 2023

To: BOCES District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public School Districts
Principals of Public Schools
Charter School Leaders
Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

From: Kathleen R. DeCataldo

Subject: Opioid Overdose Prevention

The number of opioid overdoses continues to increase in New York State, including in school aged youth. According to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Office of Drug User Health, Emergency Medical Services responded to 324 calls where naloxone was administered to youth between the ages of 9-19 in 2022. Of those 324 calls, 21 included the administration of naloxone at school. In 2022, law enforcement reported that naloxone was administered 41 times to youth aged 9-19, with the youngest being reported as 12 years old.

The Department continues to encourage schools to have naloxone available on site in their schools. Schools can take action to save lives by:

- [Registering](#) with the NYSDOH as an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program and receive free naloxone.
- Participating with an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program provider and receive free naloxone. Information is available on the NYSDOH [Opioid Overdose Prevention Resources for School Settings](#); and/or
- Asking their district's director of school health services (a.k.a. medical director) to write non-patient specific orders and obtain naloxone (now available over the counter) for school nurses [registered professional nurses (RN)]. [Education Law Article 139](#) states only RNs can execute nonpatient specific orders, however, an RN may direct a licensed practical nurse (LPN) to administer naloxone or other opioid overdose treatment. For information on directing LPNs, see NYSED's Office of Profession's [Practice Information for Registered Professional Nursing FAQ](#).

Schools must comply with both [Education Law §922](#) and [Public Health Law §3309](#) to have naloxone available at school and schools should only train and provide naloxone to school employees in compliance with the requirements of these laws.

Schools are reminded to continue to educate and raise awareness in the school and community about the dangers of opioids and synthetic opioids. The New York State Office of Addiction Services And Supports (OASAS) and the New York State Education Department have partnered to provide [school district resources](#) for addressing substance use in a school setting.

The New York State Center for School Health also provides additional opioid-related [guidance and resources](#), including a training specifically for schools.

For questions on having naloxone available in schools please contact our Office of Student Support Services at studentsupportservices@nysed.gov or 518-486-6090.