

**ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT and COMFORT CARE/DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS**

The Mansfield Public Schools recognizes that medically fragile children and those with terminal illnesses have the right to attend school. The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the American with Disabilities Act mandates that school districts provide a free and appropriate education for students with complex medical needs. Educational services for medically fragile students may be provided in the regular education setting in order to meet the child's educational needs in the least restrictive environment.

Due to the intense medical needs of some students with health impairments, a family may make the difficult decision not to prolong the child's life and request a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order or limit certain life-sustaining treatments.

In accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) protocols, if the parent/guardian wishes a limitation of life-sustaining treatment to be adhered to by the school staff and pre-hospital emergency care providers, the parent/guardian must provide the school with a fully executed Massachusetts Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) or a Comfort Care/Do Not Resuscitate Order Verification Form (CC/DNR). A copy of one of these fully executed documents is acceptable. In the case of CC/DNR, it is recommended that the child also wear a Comfort Care bracelet. -These are the only documents that ambulance services and their EMTs and paramedics can immediately recognize and honor as an actionable order (in the case of MOLST) or verification of such an order (CC/DNR) regarding the use or limitation of use of life-sustaining treatments for their patients.

When a MOLST or CC/DNR is ordered by a physician, special consideration must be given to meeting the child's and family's needs, as well as the needs of the other students and staff. Respecting the family's wishes involves extensive preplanning in the school setting. The child should only be placed in a school that has a full time school nurse. A collaborative plan of care will need to be developed with the family. The local EMS should be informed (with written permission from the parent or guardian) that there is a child in the school building with a MOLST or CC/DNR order. The school nurse should communicate to the appropriate school staff and administrators, answering questions that they may have. If a death occurs in school, the crisis team must be activated immediately to assist the family, staff, and students cope with the loss.

In accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health MOLST and CC/DNR Order Verification Protocol, if the Mansfield Public Schools is not provided with a fully executed CC/DNR Order Verification Form, first responders will provide emergency treatment, including resuscitation, in accordance with standard protocols and the child will be transported from the school to a hospital.

Revised: November 7, 2017

Adopted: May 27, 2014

REFS: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of Health and Human Services: *Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) and Comfort Care DNR Verification*

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Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of Health and Human  
Services: *Children with “Do Not Resuscitate” or “Comfort Care” Orders  
in the School Setting*