THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

EXECUTIVE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

July 31, 2012

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Administrators of Charter and Nonpublic Schools

From: Valerie Grey

Subject: Updated Information Regarding the Use of Sunscreen

This memorandum updates the State Education Department (SED) Administration of Medication in the School Setting Guidelines-2002. The guidance required a medical provider order and written parent/guardian permission in order for a student to use sunscreen. After consulting with the Department of Health regarding the importance of protecting students from potential overexposure to the sun, SED is changing this guidance.

Effective immediately, schools are no longer required to obtain a medical provider order to allow a student to carry and use sunscreen in school if: (1) the sunscreen is used for the purpose of avoiding overexposure to the sun and not for medical treatment of an injury or illness; (2) the sunscreen is approved by the FDA for over-the-counter use; and (3) the student's parent or guardian provides written permission for the student to carry and use sunscreen. A student who is unable to physically apply sunscreen may be assisted by unlicensed personnel when directed to do so by the student, if permitted by a parent or guardian and authorized by the school.

Each school district may develop a sun protection policy, which may include the use of sunscreen by students without a medical provider order. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing the sunscreen they would like their child to use at school.

Related questions may be directed to the Office of Student Support Services at 518-486-6090 or studentsupportservices@mail.nysed.gov.