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**BILL:**        **HB1268** - Educational Institutions –  
Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications  
– Policy Requirements

**DATE:**        March 6, 2024

**POSITION:**   Information only

**COMMITTEE:**   House Ways and Means Committee

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The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provides this information for your consideration regarding House Bill (HB) 1268 – *Educational Institutions – Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications – Policy Requirements*. HB 1268 addresses education about the use of opioid overdose-reversing medication in both Maryland public schools and institutions of higher education. This bill requires that information about these medications be included in health education. HB 1268 permits students and staff to carry and administer the medication.

### **HB 1268 and Maryland Public Schools**

HB 1268 does not distinguish between elementary and secondary schools. The Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework, in alignment with the national health education standards and written by a diverse group of content experts, includes research-based, age-appropriate topics and indicators for students to learn about heroin and opioid addiction and prevention, including information relating to the lethal effect of fentanyl. HB 1268 seeks to include instruction on the mitigating effects of naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medications for students. While the Department supports the inclusion of this topic in the health education framework, the content should be evaluated by experts to ensure that it is developed in a manner that is age-appropriate for each grade band specified.

### **Implementation**

County Boards of Education are currently required to develop a policy that requires naloxone to be stored in all public schools. HB1268 further requires that this policy includes authorization for a student, staff member, or lawfully present individual on school grounds or at school-sponsored events to possess and administer opioid-reversing medication. Parents and guardians must be notified of this policy.

In developing policies for the requirements for authorization to possess naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversing medication, LEAs should consider training, parent/guardian permission, minimum age, and other factors to determine authorization to possess and administer naloxone or other opioid overdose-reversion

medications. As is the case with other aspects of school health services, MSDE will provide technical assistance support to Maryland local education agencies (LEAs) as needed.

If additional information is needed, please contact Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D., Executive Director of Governmental Affairs, at 410-767-0504, or [akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov](mailto:akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov).