



# California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

## DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR)

### STATEMENT

The California School Nurses Organization recommends that Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders for students be evaluated on an individual basis at the local level, according to district policies, local, and state laws. Each student involved must have an Individualized School Health Plan (ISHP) and an Emergency Care Plan developed by the credentialed school nurse with involvement from parents, administrators, health care providers, teachers, and the student, if appropriate.

The Emergency care plan should include the following components:

- Actions the student's teacher or other school employee should take if the student suffers a life-threatening incident; i.e. telephone the local emergency medical services, deliver emergency procedures as delineated in the plan, give comfort to the student, contact parent(s)/guardian(s), remove other students from the setting, etc.
- All school employees who may have supervision of the student during the school day must review and be trained in the individual procedures in the event of a life-threatening incident involving the student.
- It is the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility to communicate their wishes for the DNR order to the local Emergency Medical Services.
- The credentialed school nurse and other appropriate health care providers need to assist parent(s)/guardian(s) and school personnel to review, as needed, when warranted by a change in the student's condition, but at least every 6 months, plans for in-school care.

In addition, school staff should be provided training, counseling and age-appropriate educational programs on death and dying. In the event of a student's death, appropriate counseling is recommended to be provided for all staff and students, as needed.

### RATIONALE

A DNR order is not synonymous with abandonment of all medical treatment and does not rescind the obligations of the health care team to provide quality care. With the increased number of students with chronic and terminal diseases still able to attend school, it is important that the credentialed school nurse work with health care providers, the family, and school personnel to provide guidance and advice that will continue a student's education and participation for as long as reasonable.

### References:

Council on School Health and Committee on Bioethics. (2010). Honoring do-not-attempt-resuscitation requests in schools. *Pediatrics*, 125, 1073-1077. Retrieved from <http://pediatrics.aapublications.org/content/125/5/1073> doi:10.1542/peds.2010-0452

National Association of School Nurses. (2014). Do not attempt resuscitation (DNAR)—The role of the school nurse. (Position Statement). Retrieved from <http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsFullView/tabid/462/ArticleId/640/Do-Not-Attempt-Resuscitation-DNAR-The-Role-of-the-School-Nurse-Adopted-January-2014>

Zacharski, S., Minchella, L., Gomez, S., Grogan, S., Porter, S., & Robarge, D. (2013). Do not attempt resuscitation (DNAR) orders in school settings: Special needs school nurses review current research and issues. *NASN School Nurse*, 28, 71-75. doi:10.1177/1942602X12472540