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**To:** BOCES District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools  
Principals of Public and Nonpublic Schools  
Charter School Leaders

**From:** Renée L. Rider 

**Subject:** Information for Schools Regarding Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs

As you may recall, in an effort to combat the continuing rise in opioid-related deaths in New York State, laws were enacted in summer of 2015 allowing schools to provide and maintain opioid antagonists (naloxone) on-site in each instructional school facility to ensure ready and appropriate access for use during emergencies to any student or staff. In support, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) developed a training program for school personnel to assist schools in implementing an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program.<sup>1</sup> Additional information, guidance and resource materials to assist schools can be located at the Statewide Center for School Health Services at: <http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/HeroinandOpioidToolkitResources>.

There are various options for implementing an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, including the availability of two options where schools can receive **free naloxone**:

- Register with the NYSDOH to operate a NYSDOH Registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Program; or
- Participate in a NYSDOH Registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Program operated by another organization.

Prior to participation in an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program and providing an opioid antagonist in a school, district boards of education and school governing bodies should develop policies consistent with the laws and regulations of New York.

Questions should be directed to the Office of Student Support Services at 518-486-6090, or [StudentSupportServices@nysed.gov](mailto:StudentSupportServices@nysed.gov).

As always, thank you for your continued dedication to keeping our children safe.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/NewLawOpioidOverdosePreventMemo.pdf>