

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

Meeting Date: February 24, 2014

AGENDA ITEM No. 14-02-(2)-14

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) N

SUBJECT: School-Based Blood Drives - Practical Guidance

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Gerri P. Martin, Superintendent **PHONE:** 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: None.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is to provide information on a proposed process for hosting blood drives on Orange County Schools properties.

BACKGROUND: Blood drives are commonly conducted on public school property. As you know, the Board was addressed recently during a public comment at a Board Meeting regarding procedures surrounding a blood drive that was held at Orange High School. As a result of the public comment, the Superintendent has worked with the attorney to understand the nature of blood drives and particularly as it relates to the voiced complaint. We have reviewed the current procedures used in Orange County Schools, the actual blood collection process used by the American Red Cross, the law as it relates to blood donation and a student's age, and the parental consent forms provided by the American Red Cross and used during the blood drives. The Board has also received legal advice from the attorney. After this review, the Superintendent recommends that the Board consider the following as standard practice for any and all blood drives performed on Orange County Schools property:

- All schools hosting a blood drive, particularly the high schools, will distribute uniform information and use a uniform process.
- Parents will be required to sign off regardless of the student's age.
- Only whole-blood donations will be allowed by any and all donors. The rationale for limiting donations to whole blood is the added time required for specific blood components and the added risk of minor side effects. Any added time equates to the loss of time students and/or teachers may be in class.
- Athletes will be strongly encouraged not to participate in blood donation on the day of a practice or event in which they will be participating.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact to Orange County Schools.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education accept the foregoing as information and further recommends that the Board establish as accepted practice the procedures as outlined.