

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: AF, AF-RA, DI, DI-RA, GAD, GAD-RA, JB-RA, JH, JH-RA, JU

Responsible Office: OFFICE OF STUDENT AND SYSTEMIC SUPPORTS, OFFICE OF OPERATIONS,
OFFICE OF ACADEMICS, DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

STUDENT TELEHEALTH

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for students to access telehealth appointments during the school day within the secondary school setting in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. BACKGROUND

Telehealth is an important tool for enhancing student health and wellbeing. Telehealth has the potential to increase access to services, including behavioral health services. Access to telehealth services in the school setting supports reduced time away from academic instruction. Integrating telehealth services within the school community fosters a healthy environment that supports educational and emotional well-being for both parents/guardians and students.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Behavioral Health*** – care of mental health, substance use disorders, and other behaviors that impact overall well-being. Behavioral health does not include psychiatry services or medication management.
2. ***School/Practitioner-Initiated Telehealth*** – telehealth services between a student (with or without their parent(s)/guardian(s)) and a health care practitioner external to a school when AACPS has a formal agreement with the health care practitioner to provide health care services to its students.
3. ***Telehealth*** – a mode of delivering health care services through the use of telecommunications technologies by a health care practitioner to a patient at a different physical location than the health care practitioner.

D. PROCEDURES

1. School/practitioner-initiated telehealth services may be provided for behavioral health in AACPS in accordance with State law, this regulation, and the *Student Telehealth Procedures Manual*.
2. ***Equity and Prioritization of Access to Telehealth Appointments***
 - a. In accordance with Policy AF and Administrative Regulation AF-RA – Educational Equity, all students shall have equitable access to participate in telehealth appointments in school, including students with disabilities.
 - b. School-initiated telehealth services shall support both the health and educational outcomes of students. For students with Individualized Education Programs or 504 plans, schools shall ensure that telehealth services, if appropriate, complement students’ accommodation(s) or service(s).
 - c. Registration to participate in school-initiated telehealth services shall be in accordance with the *Student Telehealth Procedures Manual*.
3. ***Confidentiality***
 - a. Staff supporting students participating in telehealth appointments shall comply with the legal requirements and obligations for student privacy and confidentiality.
 - b. Schools shall ensure that the location(s) chosen for students to participate in telehealth appointments are private.
4. ***Parental and Student Informed Consent***
 - a. Parent/guardian and student consent for school/practitioner-initiated telehealth shall be in accordance with the *Student Telehealth and Privacy Consent* form.
5. ***Communication and Coordination of Services***
 - a. Student and parent/guardian participation in school-initiated telehealth appointments shall be in accordance with Policy JU – Student Telehealth and the *Student Telehealth Procedures Manual*.
6. ***In-Person Support Protocols***
 - a. Student absences due to school/practitioner-initiated telehealth shall be addressed in accordance with Administrative Regulation JB-RA – Compulsory Attendance.

7. *Provision of Services*

a. Space

- i. AACPS secondary schools shall designate space for school/practitioner-initiated telehealth in accordance with the *Student Telehealth Procedures Manual*.

b. Technology

- i. School/practitioner-initiated telehealth in AACPS shall comply with Policy DI and accompanying Administrative Regulation DI-RA – Technology Use and Security.
- ii. School/practitioner-initiated telehealth in AACPS shall comply with the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act* and, as appropriate, the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*.

8. This regulation shall be reviewed annually.

Regulation History: Issued 08/20/25

Note Previous Regulation History: None

Legal References: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, Section 4-143 of the Education Article, Section 20-104 of the Health-General Article