

Lower Merion School District

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy: 209
Section: STUDENTS
Title: HEALTH AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS
Date Adopted:
Date Last Revised: 12/17/18

R209 HEALTH AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

Required Examinations

Proof of a comprehensive health examination by a licensed MD, DO, CRNP or PA shall be submitted for each student upon original entry into the District and while in the sixth grade and in the eleventh grade. Parents/guardians may have this examination performed by the MD, DO, CRNP or PA of their choice and at their expense. This examination shall be documented on the form approved by the PA Department of Health, and shall be dated no earlier than four months prior to the opening of the school term during which the regular examination is scheduled.

Proof of a dental examination by licensed dentist or dental hygienist shall be submitted for each student upon original entry into the District and while in third and seventh grade. Parents/guardians may have this examination performed by the licensed dentist or dental hygienist of their choice and at their expense. This examination shall be documented on the form approved by the PA Department of Health, and shall be dated no earlier than four months prior to the opening of the school term during which the regular examination is scheduled.

Required health and dental examinations, as detailed above, conducted by the school physician, school dentist, or other health care professional authorized by law to conduct such examination will be arranged, with prior parent/guardian notification and consent, for any students who do not submit proof of having independently received such required examinations. Examinations conducted by the District are abbreviated exams, and do not include exposure or examination of genitalia or other private body parts. The District makes no warranty or commitment as to the thoroughness of the medical or dental examination conducted by the District for any purpose other than compliance with requirements of the Public School Code and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Health Services

Each child shall be given the following:

1. A vision screening by a school nurse on an annual basis to all Kindergarten through twelfth grade students.

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2. A hearing screening by a school nurse to all kindergarten, first, second, third, seventh, and eleventh grade students.
3. A measurement of height and weight by a school nurse who shall use the measurement to compute a child's weight-for-height ratio. This measurement shall be taken on an annual basis for all Kindergarten through twelfth grade students.
4. Tests for tuberculosis, upon initial entry into school, if the student is enrolling from a country or area that is deemed a high risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and/or the state or local health departments.
5. Scoliosis screening, which shall be given to all sixth and seventh grade students.
6. Such other tests as the Advisory Health Board may deem advisable to protect the health of the child.

All teachers shall report to the school nurse or school physician any unusual behavior, changes in physical appearance, changes in attendance habits and changes in scholastic achievement, which may indicate impairment of a child's health. The nurse or school physician or school dentist may, upon referral by the teacher or on his own initiative, advise a child's parent or guardian of the apparent need for a special medical or dental examination.

Recommendations as to medical, surgical or dental care shall be sent to each parent or guardian and to the family physician or family dentist on forms prepared or approved by the PA Department of Health with instructions to the parent or guardian to consult the family physician or family dentist and to notify the school authorities of the action taken with respect to the recommendations.

Parent/Guardian Notification

Parents/Guardians of students who are to receive physical and dental examinations or screenings shall be notified. The notice shall include the date and location of the examination or screening and notice that the parent/ guardian is encouraged to attend or may have the examination or screening conducted privately at the parent's/guardian's expense. Such statement may also include notification that the student may be exempted from such examination or screening if it is contrary to the parent's/guardian's religious beliefs.

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Religious Exemptions

A student, or their parent/guardian if the student is a minor, who presents a statement that a medical examination is contrary to their religious beliefs shall be examined only when the PA Department Health determines that the student presents a substantial health threat to the health of others exposed to contact with the unexamined person.

Maintenance/Transfer/Destruction of Health Records

Health records shall be confidentially maintained for each child. These records shall be available in the school building where the child attends school and shall be available to the school nurse at all times. Such records shall be transferred with the child when he moves from one school to another or from one district to another.

In the case of any child of school age who enrolls in the District and who previously attended school in another district in Pennsylvania, the designated District representative shall request that the district or school where the child previously attended to transfer the health record of the child.

A child's health record shall be maintained in accordance with Board Policy, and in no event shall such records be destroyed within a period of two years after the child ceases to be enrolled, although such record may be surrendered to the child's parent or guardian if the child does not re-enroll in an elementary or secondary school in Pennsylvania.

Notice Regarding Eligibility for Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Each year, by August 15, the Department of Insurance is required to provide the District with notices detailing the existence of and eligibility for CHIP to provide to parents/guardians.

The designated District representative shall be responsible for providing such notice to the parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the District during the school year, upon receipt by the Department of Insurance.