

Student Health Services**District Medical Advisor**

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) directs the Superintendent to appoint a Bethany Public School District (District) medical advisor and appropriate medical support service personnel including nurses that are recommended by the Superintendent.

The District Medical Advisor, in cooperation with the Board and the local Health Department for the District, shall:

1. plan and administer the school's health program,
2. advise on the provision of school health services,
3. provide consultation on the school health environment, and
4. perform any other duties as agreed between the advisor and the appointing Board.

School health efforts shall be directed toward detection and prevention of health problems and to emergency treatment, including the following student health services:

1. appraising the health status of student school personnel,
2. counseling students, parents, and others concerning the findings of health examination,
3. encouraging correction of defects,
4. helping prevent and control disease,
5. providing emergency care for student injury and sudden illness,
6. maintaining school health records.

Health Records

There shall be a health record for each student enrolled in the District which will be maintained in the school nurse's office. For the purposes of confidentiality, records will be treated in the same manner as the student's cumulative academic record.

Student health records are covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and are exempt from the Health Insurance Portability Act (HIPAA) privacy rule. However, it is recognized that obtaining medical information from health care providers will require schools to have proper authorization and to inform parents/guardians that such information once released by health care providers is no longer protected under HIPAA but is covered under FERPA.

Health Assessments

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) requires each student enrolled in the Bethany Public School District (District) to undergo health assessments as mandated by state law.

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Prior to enrollment in kindergarten, each child shall have a health assessment by one of the following medical personnel of the parents/guardians choosing to ascertain whether the student has any physical disability or other health problem tending to prevent the student from receiving the full benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such school work should be modified in order to prevent injury to the student or to secure for the student a suitable program of education:

1. a legally qualified physician,
2. an advanced practice registered nurse,
3. a registered nurse,
4. a physician's assistant,
5. a district medical advisor,
6. a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at any military base.

Such health assessment shall include:

1. Physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure, and a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma.
2. Updating of immunizations required under Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-204 as periodically amended.
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screenings.
4. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

A child will not be allowed, as the case may be, to begin or continue in school unless health assessments are performed as required. Students transferring into the District must provide evidence of required Connecticut vaccinations, immunizations, and health assessments at enrollment and prior to school attendance.

Health assessments will be provided by the District Medical Advisor or the Advisor's designee without charge to all students whose parents/guardians meet the eligibility requirement of free and reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

The Board shall annually designate a representative to receive reports of health assessments and immunizations from health care providers.

Health assessment results and recommendations signed by the examining physician or authorized medical personnel shall be recorded on forms provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education and kept on file in the school. Upon written authorization from the student's parent/guardian, original cumulative health records shall be sent to the chief administrative officer of the District to which such student moves and a true copy of the student's cumulative health records maintained with the student's academic records. The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of any health-related problems detected in health assessments and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that further testing and treatment are provided, including advice on obtaining such required testing or treatment.

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Students who violate Board requirements for health assessments and immunizations will be excluded from school after appropriate parental/guardian notice and warning.

Screenings

The Board will provide vision, hearing, and postural screenings as mandated by state law. Parents/guardians will be notified prior to scheduled screenings.

Vision Screening

All students in grades K, 1, 3, 4 & 5 will be screened using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening, by the school nurse. An equivalent screening device or an automated vision screening device may be used for such vision screening. Additional vision screenings will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student in question. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent/guardian of each student found to have any defect of vision, with a brief statement describing such defect.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabilities.

Hearing Screening

All students will be screened for possible hearing impairments in grades K, 1, 3, 4 & 5. Additional audiometric screenings will be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent/guardian of each student found to have any defect of hearing, with a brief statement describing such defect.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabilities.

Postural Screening

The school nurse will screen all female students in grade 5 for scoliosis or other postural problems. Additional postural screenings will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Superintendent or designee shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent/guardian of each student found to have any postural defect of problem, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabilities.

Oral Health Assessments

Parents/guardians are encouraged to have oral health assessments for their child(ren) prior to public school enrollment. Such assessment may be conducted by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse, if trained in conducting such assessments as part of a Department of Public Health approved training program. When conducted by a dentist the oral assessment must include a dental examination. If another such provider conducts the assessment, it must include a visual screening and risk assessment.

Immunizations/Vaccinations

No student will be allowed to enroll in district schools without adequate immunization against the following diseases:

1. Measles
2. Rubella
3. Poliomyelitis
4. Diphtheria
5. Tetanus
6. Pertussis
7. Mumps
8. Hemophilus influenza type B
9. Hepatitis B
10. Varicella (Chickenpox)
11. Hepatitis A
12. Pneumococcal disease
13. Influenza
14. Meningococcal disease
15. Any other vaccine required by Connecticut General Statutes §19a-7f

All students in grades K-6 are required to have received two (2) doses of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine or serologic proof of immunity. Students entering kindergarten shall show proof of having received two (2) doses of varicella vaccine, laboratory confirmation of immunity, or present a written statement signed by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse indicating the individual has had varicella based on family or medical history.

All students in grades K-6 are required to have three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine or serologic evidence of immunity.

Students shall be exempt from the appropriate provisions of this policy when:

1. they present a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or local health agency stating that initial immunizations have been given and additional immunizations are in process under guidelines and schedules specified by the Commissioner of Health Services; or
2. they present a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, stating that in the opinion of such medical provider immunization is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of such child. Such certification will be provided on the medical exemption certificate form developed by the Department of Public Health and available on its website; or

3. they present a statement from their parents/guardians that such immunization would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents/guardians; such statement to be officially acknowledged by a notary public or a judge, a court clerk/deputy clerk, a justice of the peace, or a Connecticut attorney, or school nurse, and such religious exemption was granted prior to April 28, 2021 (by midnight April 27, 2021). Such student retains this exemption through grade 6, even if the student transfers to another school in Connecticut. (Note: To be eligible for such an exemption, a student a) must have been enrolled in Bethany Community School in Grades K-6 on or before midnight April 28, 2021; and b) must have submitted a valid religious exemption prior to midnight April 27, 2021. Students must meet both conditions in order to be eligible for a religious exemption.); or
4. In the case of a child enrolled in pre-kindergarten on or before April 29, 2021, whose parent/guardian appropriately submitted a statement necessary for the religious exemption shall have until September 1, 2022 to comply with Connecticut's required immunizations or with fourteen (14) days after transferring to a different public or private school, whichever is later. The deadline for such pre-kindergarten student complying with the immunization requirements can be altered if the District is provided with a written declaration from the child's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse recommending a different immunization schedule for the child.
5. in the case of measles, mumps, or rubella, present a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, or from the Director of Health in such child's present or previous town of residence, stating that the child has had a confirmed case of such disease; or
6. in the case of Hemophilus influenza type B has passed his or her fifth birthday; or
7. in the case of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis have a medical exemption confirmed in writing by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse (per Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-7f).

The school nurse will report to the District Medical Advisor and local directors of health of any occurrence of State of Connecticut defined reportable communicable diseases.

Student Medical Care at School

School personnel are responsible for the immediate care necessary for a student whose sickness or injury occurs on the school premises during school hours or in school-sponsored and supervised activities.

If a child's injury requires immediate care, the parent/guardian will be contacted by the school nurse, the Principal or designee, and advised of the student's condition. When immediate medical or dental attention is indicated, and when parents/guardians cannot be reached, the student will be transported to the nearest hospital.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-203
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-204
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-204a, as amended
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-204c
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-205
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-206, as amended

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Legal References:	Connecticut General Statutes § 10-206a Connecticut General Statutes § 10-207, as amended Connecticut General Statutes § 10-208 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-208a Connecticut General Statutes § 10-209, as amended Connecticut General Statutes § 10-210 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-212 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-212a Connecticut General Statutes § 10-213 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-214, as amended Connecticut General Statutes § 10-214a, as amended Connecticut General Statutes § 10-214b Connecticut General Statutes § 10-217a Department of Public Health Code 10-204a-2a, 10-204a-3a, and 10-204a-4 20 U.S.C. 1232g 42 U.S.C. 1320d-1320d-9, Public Law 104-191 Public Act 18-168 §§ 7-9, 539 & 540 Public Action 21-6
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