

## HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

**Cautionary Notice 2010-13:** AB 1610 (Ch. 724, Statutes of 2010) amended Education Code 37252.2 and Government Code 17581.5 to relieve districts from the obligation, until July 1, 2013, to perform any activities that are deemed to be reimbursable state mandates under those sections. As a result, certain provisions of the following policy or administrative regulation that reflect those requirements may be suspended.

The principal at each school shall notify parents/guardians of the rights of students and parents/guardians related to health examinations. (Education Code 48980; 20 USC 1232h)

A parent/guardian may annually file a written statement with the principal withholding consent to the physical examination of his/her child. Any such student shall be exempt from any physical examination but shall be subject to exclusion from attendance when contagious or infectious disease is reasonably suspected.

### Vision and Hearing Tests

Students shall have their vision and hearing tested by qualified personnel authorized by the district.

All students shall be tested for visual acuity when they first enroll in elementary school and at least every three years thereafter until they complete grade 8. Gross external observation of the student's eyes, visual performance, and perception shall be made by the school nurse and the classroom teacher.

For male students, color vision shall be tested one time, after the student reaches grade 1. Results of the test shall be entered into the student's health record.

Evaluation of a student's vision may be waived at the parent/guardian's request if the parent/guardian presents a certificate from an authorized health care provider specifying the results of an examination of the student's vision, including visual acuity, and, in male students, color vision.

Visual defects or any other defects found as a result of the vision examination shall be reported to the parent/guardian with a request that remedial action be taken to correct or cure the defect. The report of a visual defect, if made in writing, shall be made on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Such reports shall not include a referral to any private practitioner. However, the student may be referred to a public clinic or diagnostic and treatment center operated by a public hospital or by the state, county, or city department of public health. (Education Code 49456)

**HEALTH EXAMINATIONS** (continued)

**Scoliosis Screening**

Each female student in grade 7 and each male student in grade 8 shall be screened for scoliosis. This screening shall comply with California Department of Education (CDE) standards and shall be performed by qualified personnel as specified in law.

Persons performing the screening shall not solicit, encourage, or advise treatment of the student for scoliosis or any other condition discovered in the course of the screening.

The parent/guardian of any student suspected of having scoliosis shall receive a notice which includes an explanation of scoliosis and describes the significance of treatment at an early age. This notice shall also describe the public services available for treatment and include a referral to appropriate community resources.