

DRAFT Policy re: Vision and Hearing Examinations, Immunizations and Oral Health Assessments

The California Montessori Project (CMP) Governing Board recognizes that periodic vision and hearing examinations of students may lead to the detection and treatment of conditions that impact learning. These examinations also may help in determining whether special adaptations of our program are necessary for the student's success.

Each CMP campus will conduct vision and hearing examinations of students annually at certain grade levels, as indicated by law. Dates and results of all screenings will be recorded in the students' health record. An annual report of the school's assessment program is provided to the State Department of Health Services.

To protect the health of all students and staff, and to curtail the spread of infectious diseases, the CMP Governing Board cooperates with state and local health agencies to require immunization of all students against preventable diseases.

Vision Appraisals:

During the kindergarten year, or upon first enrollment in CMP, if it is the student's first entry in a California school, and in grades second, fifth, and eighth, CMP will appraise the student's vision. The school need not appraise a student's vision in the year immediately following the student's first enrollment, or entry if the student's first enrollment or entry occurs in grade fourth or seventh. The screening will include tests for visual acuity, including near and distance vision, and color vision (done once for male students).

Classroom teachers are responsible for the observation of the student's visual performance or other behaviors that might indicate vision difficulties.

The vision evaluation may be waived by the parents/guardians if they present a certificate from a physician or an optometrist with the results of a student's vision, including visual acuity and color vision.

CMP will provide parents/guardians written notification for the children who fail the vision screenings.

~~**[For schools with grades 7 and/or 8] Scoliosis Screening:** Every female student in grade 7 and every male student in grade 8 shall be screened for the condition known as scoliosis. The screening shall be in accordance with standards established by the State Department of Education. The screening shall take place during the regular school day and any staff time devoted to these activities shall be redirected from other ongoing activities not related to the student's health care. If a student is suspected of having scoliosis, the School will notify the parents. The notice will include an explanation of scoliosis, the significance of treating it at an early age, and the public services available, after diagnosis, for treatment.~~

~~The Director, or designee, shall ensure that staff employed to examine students are fully qualified to do so and exercise proper care of each student and that examination results are kept confidential. Records related to these examinations shall be available only in accordance with law.~~

~~The School Director may make reports to the Governing Board regarding the number of students found to have physical problems and the effort made to correct them from time to time. The reports shall in no way reveal the identity of students.~~

Hearing Screenings:

CMP will provide hearing assessments of each student enrolled in the school in kindergarten or first grade, and again in second, fifth, and eighth, or at the time of the student's first entry into the California public school system.

Each student enrolled in a special education program, other than those enrolled for a hearing problem, will be given a hearing test when enrolled in the special education program and **every third year** thereafter. Hearing tests may be given more frequently based on the individual education program team's evaluation of each individual student.

CMP will provide parents/guardians reports for the children who fail the hearing tests with a written notification of the test results and recommend that a medical and/or audiological evaluation be obtained.

Immunizations

Prior to admission to CMP, a student's immunization record must be presented to the campus office which indicates the month and year of each immunization as required by law. A student may be conditionally admitted in accordance with the Department of Health regulations; however, if the parent/guardian of the student fails to fulfill the conditions of admission, CMP will prohibit the student from further attendance until that student has been fully immunized.

Exemptions from Requirements:

Students who, prior to January 1, 2016, submitted a letter or affidavit on file stating beliefs opposed to immunization, will be allowed to unconditionally enroll in the CMP. However, at the next grade level span (Tk-Kindergarten to sixth grade / seventh to twelfth grade), the student must be immunized according to the law.

A student will be exempted from the immunization requirements if the campus receives a written statement by a licensed physician stating the immunization is not considered safe due to the student's medical condition. The statement should include the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition. However, whenever there is cause to believe that the child has been exposed to a communicable disease for which immunization is required, the student may be temporarily excluded from attending school until such time it is determined the child is no longer at risk.

When a child completes one grade span and seeks to enroll in the next, parents must submit a new medical exemption.

CMP will file a written report on the immunization status of newly enrolled students with the Department of Health Services as required by law.

Oral Health

Within the school year, students entering kindergarten or the first grade (who did not attend kindergarten) must present proof to the school of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist or other licensed dental health professional. The oral health assessment must have been performed no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of initial enrollment. Upon initial enrollment in kindergarten or first grade, the

school will notify parent/guardians of the required oral health assessment on the California Department of Education approved form.

CMP will provide resources in the community to families who do not have access to a dental health professional or would experience a financial hardship to obtain the dental assessment.

*???*A student may be excused from this requirement if his/her parent or guardian indicates on the approved form provided by the school one or more of the following reasons apply: *???*

- *The oral health assessment poses an undue financial burden on the parent/guardian;*
- *The parent/guardian lacks access to a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional; or*
- *The parent/guardian does not consent to the assessment.*

By July 1 of each year, CMP must submit a report to the County Office of Education containing the number of students received dental health examinations.

Contagious Diseases

If there is good reason to believe a student is suffering from an infectious disease, the student will be sent home and not be permitted to return to school until the campus office receives clearance from the student's physician.

The campus office will alert those families whose child may have been exposed to the contagious disease as soon as possible indicating the symptoms of the illness.

Head Lice

CMP has a no nit policy due to the nature of the Montessori classroom environment. When it is determined that a student has head lice, the student will be sent home. The families of all possibly exposed students will receive notification indicating treatments, the process to examine their child for eggs or nits, and how to clear the home environment of head lice. All students returning to school following a lice infection will be examined by a school staff person to determine the student no longer has nits.