



Health Examinations, Immunizations and Oral Health Assessments Policy

Blue Ridge Academy is committed protecting the health and well-being of all Blue Ridge Academy students. Blue Ridge Academy provides health screenings, including vision and hearing testing, and maintains student immunization records in accordance with the law and best practice, in a manner of ensuring student success.

The purpose of the Blue Ridge Academy Governing Board approving this Health Examinations, Immunizations and Oral Health Assessments Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Outline the Health Examinations Performed by the School
2. Establish the Immunization Requirements of Enrollment
3. Explain the Oral Health Examination Requirements of Enrollment

- 1. Health Examinations by the School:** The Governing Board recognizes that periodic health examinations of students may lead to the detection and treatment of conditions that impact learning. Health examinations also may help in determining whether special adaptations of the School's program are necessary. The School shall conduct health examinations of students if we suspect during child find activities that a student requires screening or additional assessments in this area, including upon parent request for visual acuity. We also expect all staff to observe student behavior in order to determine student needs and refer for visual or hearing screenings if they suspect any challenges or deficits.

All Health Examinations may be waived by the parents/guardians if they choose. Parents/guardians may also avoid the testing and observation if they file with the School Director a statement in writing that they adhere to the faith or teachings of any well-recognized religious sect, denomination, or organization and in accordance with its creed, tenets or principles depend for healing upon prayer in the practice of their religion.

A parent/guardian may file annually with the School's Director a statement in writing, signed by the parent/guardian, stating that he/she will not consent to a physical examination of their child. The student will thereafter be exempt from physical examinations, but if there is good reason to believe that the student is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the student will be sent home and not be permitted to return to school until the School Director is satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

Vision Appraisals: Blue Ridge Academy teachers are responsible for continuous and regular observation of the student's eyes, appearance, behavior visual performance, and perception that might indicate vision difficulties. Where a student's school performance

begins to give evidence that the existence of the problem might be caused by a visual difficulty, or where a parent requests a visual assessment, a visual evaluation shall be done in consultation with the school nurse.

The appraisal shall include tests for visual acuity, including near vision and color vision, the results of which shall be entered in the student health records.

A student's vision may be appraised by using an eye chart or any other scientifically validated photoscreening test. Photoscreening tests shall be performed, under an agreement with, or the supervision of, an optometrist or ophthalmologist, by the school nurse or a trained individual who meets requirements established by the CDE.

Hearing Screening: The School will provide for the testing of hearing of any student enrolled in the school that have been referred for testing by a parent or teacher, where school performance begins to give evidence that the existence of the problem might be caused by a hearing difficulty. A hearing evaluation shall be done in consultation with the school nurse. The School shall endeavor to follow the equipment standards, test environments, and testing procedures identified in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, section 2951.

The School will provide parents/guardians of children who fail the hearing tests with a written notification of the test results and recommend that a medical and audiological evaluation be obtained under certain circumstances identified in regulation.

Dates and results of all screening hearing testing shall be recorded on each pupil's health record.

2. **Immunizations:** Upon enrollment to Blue Ridge Academy, students are required to provide immunization records which shows at least the month and year of each immunization the student has received, in accordance with law. Alternatively, the student may provide a waiver signed by the student's parents/guardians indicating that they do not want or are unable to obtain immunizations for their child.

Immunization records shall be part of the mandatory permanent pupil record and shall be kept in accordance with the School's record-keeping policy.

3. **Oral Health Assessments:** By May 31 of each school year, students entering kindergarten or the first grade (who have not attended kindergarten) must present proof to the school of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist, or other licensed or registered dental health professional. The oral health assessment must have been performed no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of initial enrollment.

A student may be excused from this requirement if their 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.

Notice: 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.

Report to County Office of Education: By July 1 of each year, the school will submit a report to a system designated by the state dental director for the collection of those reports or the County Office of Education containing the following information:

- the total number of pupils in the school who are subject to the oral health assessment requirements of the statute;
- the total number of pupils who submitted proof of an assessment;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment due to financial burden;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment due to lack of access to a dentist;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment because their parents/guardians did not consent;
- the total number of pupils who are assessed and found to have had caries experience;
- the total number of pupils who are assessed and found to have untreated decay;
- the total number of pupils who did not return either the assessment form or the waiver request to the school