STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that good student health is vital to successful learning and acknowledges its responsibility, along with that of parent(s) or guardian(s), to protect and foster a safe and healthful environment for the students.

The school shall work closely with students' families to provide detection and preventive health services. In accordance with law, the school will provide vision, hearing, and scoliosis screening. Problems shall be referred to the parent(s) or guardian(s) who shall be encouraged to have their family physician/dentist provide appropriate care.

In order to enroll in school a student must submit a health certificate within 30 calendar days after entering school, and upon entering prekindergarten or kindergarten, and first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh grades. The examination, which must conform to state requirements, must have been conducted no more than 12 months before the first day of the school year in question. If a student is unable to furnish the health certificate, the school will provide a physical examination by a licensed provider. A request for exemption from the physical examination, or the requirement to provide a health certificate, must be made in writing to the school principal or designee, who may require documents supporting the request. The only basis for exemption is a claim that the physical examination is in conflict with the parent or guardian’s genuine and sincere religious belief.

In order to enroll in school, students must also furnish documentation of required immunizations against certain communicable diseases, as set forth in state law and regulations, unless exempted from immunizations for medical reasons as permitted by state law and regulation.

Homeless students shall be admitted to school even if they do not have the required health or immunization records, but may be temporarily excluded if they show actual symptoms of a communicable disease that poses a significant risk of transmission to others (see “Communicable Diseases” below).

The McKinney-Vento liaison shall assist homeless students covered by that law in accessing health services described in this policy and accompanying regulation.

The Board recognizes that the State of New York may authorize and require the collection of data from health certificates in furtherance of tracking and understanding health care issues that affect children. The Board supports these efforts and expects administrators to cooperate and to observe the appropriate laws and regulations in carrying out those responsibilities, including those that relate to student privacy.

In addition, students will be asked to provide a dental health certificate when they enroll in school and in accordance with the same schedule as the health certificate.

A permanent student health record will follow the student from grade to grade and school to school. This Health Record Folder shall be maintained by the school nurse.
Emergency Care

Each school in the district will include in its emergency plan a protocol for responding to health care emergencies, including anaphylaxis, and head injury. Parents/guardians will be notified of any emergency medical situation as soon as possible. Parents/guardians will receive notification of non-emergent medical situations that have been reported to the nurse as soon as possible.

Schools shall also provide emergency care for students in accidental or unexpected medical situations. The district will stock epinephrine auto-injectors. Pursuant to Public Health Law §3000-c, the district will establish a collaborative agreement with an emergency health care provider to institute written protocols and procedures for the use of non-patient specific epinephrine auto-injectors. The district shall ensure that designated staff are appropriately trained. Each school in the district will include in its emergency plan a protocol for responding to health care emergencies, including anaphylaxis, and head injury. Parents/guardians will be notified of any emergency medical situation as soon as practicable. Parents/guardians will receive notification of non-emergent medical situations that have been reported to the nurse in a timely manner.

The Board directs the school physician/medical director to issue a non-patient specific order to school nurses to administer intranasal naloxone (also known as Narcan, among other names). The non-patient specific order shall include a written protocol containing the elements required by the regulations of the Commissioner of Education. The Board permits school nurses to administer naloxone to any person at school or a school event displaying symptoms of an opioid overdose. The district shall purchase and provide the naloxone kits to be stored in the nurse’s office. Naloxone shall be accessible during school hours and during on-site school-sponsored activities.

Communicable Diseases

It is the responsibility of the Board to provide all students with a safe and healthy school environment. To meet this responsibility, it is sometimes necessary to exclude students with contagious and infectious diseases, as defined in the Public Health Law, from attendance in school. Students will be excluded during periods of contagion for time periods consistent with the specific illness.

During an outbreak of some specific communicable diseases (eg. Pertussis, and Chicken Pox), if the Commissioner of Health or his/her designee so orders, the district will exclude students from school who have an exemption from immunization or who are in the process of obtaining immunization.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools, working through district health personnel, to enforce this policy and to contact the county or local health department when a reportable case of a communicable disease is identified in the student or staff population.
Administering Medication to Students

Neither the Board nor district staff members shall be responsible for the diagnosis or treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication to a student during school hours shall be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student, or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available to him/her during school hours, or where it is done pursuant to law requiring accommodation to a student's special medical needs (e.g., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). “Medication” will include all medicines prescribed by an authorized medical provider*, including over the counter medications.

Before any medication (Over the counter medications and/or prescription medication) may be administered to or by any student during school hours, the Board requires:

1. a written request of the parent(s) or guardian(s), which shall give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication; and
2. a written order of the prescribing authorized medical provider*, which will include the purpose of the medication, the dosage, the time at which or the special circumstances under which medication shall be administered, the period for which medication is prescribed, and the possible side effects of the medication.
3. that in order for a student to carry and use a rescue inhaler, an epinephrine auto-injector, insulin, or glucagon and associated testing supplies, written permission must be provided both by the parent and the prescribing authorized medical provider in accordance with state law and regulation.

Students are allowed to carry and apply parentally provided sunscreen without a prescription from a medical provider, assuming that the sunscreen is FDA approved and that the sunscreen is not treating a medical condition. Parents need to provide the district with written permission for students to use sunscreen. Permission slips and medical orders shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

Each school stocks albuterol in the form of metered dose inhalers and/or liquid for students who are in need of emergency dosing when their personal prescription is empty. The district will develop procedures in collaboration with school health personnel that is approved by the district medical director and the Board of Education.

*Authorized Medical Provider - “Education Law permits the following licensed health professionals to prescribe and administer medications within their respective scopes of practice: physicians, physician assistants, specialist assistants, midwives, nurse practitioners, dentists, ophthalmologists, and podiatrists. These health professionals are referred to as “authorized prescribers”, and are commonly called medical or private providers in schools.”

Life-Threatening Allergies and Anaphylaxis Management

The Board recognizes its role and responsibility in supporting a healthy learning environment for all students, including those who have, or develop, life-threatening allergies. The district will work cooperatively with the student, their parent/guardian and healthcare provider to allow the child to participate as fully and as safely as possible in school activities. When a student has a known life-threatening allergy reported on their health form or if the district has been informed by the parent of the presence of a life-threatening allergy, the district will assemble a
team, which may include the parent, the school nurse, the child’s teacher, the building principal and other appropriate personnel, which will be charged with developing an individual health care plan and/or an emergency action plan. The plan will be maintained by the school nurse. The plan will guide prevention and response. If the student is eligible for accommodations based upon the IDEA, Section 504 or the Americans with Disabilities Act, the appropriate procedures will be followed regarding identification, evaluation and implementation of accommodations.

Training
Training to support the fulfillment of staff responsibilities in regard to student health services will be provided as part of the district’s ongoing professional development plan and in conformity with Commissioner’s regulations.

Regulations
The Superintendent shall develop comprehensive regulations governing student health services. Those regulations shall include the provision of all health services required by law, procedures for the maintenance of health records, and procedures for the administering of medication to students. The Superintendent shall also develop protocols, in consultation with the district medical director and other appropriate district staff, for the management of injury, with particular attention to concussion.

Cross-ref: 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities
5020.3, Students with Disabilities and Section 504
5151, Homeless Students
5280, Interscholastic Athletics
5550, Student Privacy
8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
9700, Staff Professional Development

Ref: Education Law §§310; 901; 919; 6909
Public Health Law §§613; 2164
8 NYCRR § 64.7; § 135.4; Part 136
10 NYCRR Part 66-1 (immunization requirements)
Administration of Medication in the School Setting Guidelines, State Ed Dept., revised April 2002
Immunization Guidelines: Vaccine Preventable Communicable Disease Control, State Ed Dept., revised
August 2000
Making the Difference: Caring for Students with Life-Threatening Allergies, NYS DOH, NYS Education
Department, NY Statewide School Health Service Center, June 2008
New Policy for Stocking Albuterol Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs), State Ed Dept., August 2011,

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