

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Salem, Connecticut

STUDENTS

HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

The Board recognizes the importance of periodic health assessments according to state health regulations.

To determine health status of students, facilitate the removal of handicaps to learning, and find out whether some special adaptation of the school program may be necessary, the Board of Education may request that students have health assessments.

The Board of Education adheres to those state laws and regulations that pertain to school immunizations and health assessments. It is the policy of the Board of Education to insure that all enrolled students are adequately immunized against communicable diseases. The Board will deny continued attendance in school to any student who fails to obtain the health assessments required under C.G.S. 10-206, as may be periodically amended.

Parents wishing their children exempted or excused from health assessments may request such exemption to the Superintendent of Schools in writing. This request must be signed by the parent or guardian.

Parents/guardians wanting their children excused from immunizations on religious grounds must request such exemption in writing to the Superintendent of Schools if such immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of the child or of the parent/guardian of the child. The request must be officially acknowledged by a notary public or a judge, a court clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a town clerk, a justice of the peace, a Connecticut-licensed attorney or a 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 twelve, even if the student transfers to another school in CT.

<p>NOTE: To be eligible for such an exemption, a student: (a) must have been enrolled in school Grades K-12 on or before midnight April 28, 2021; and (b) must have submitted a valid religious exemption prior to midnight, April 27, 2021. Student must meet both conditions in order to be eligible for a religious exemption.</p>

In the case of a child enrolled in pre-school or pre-kindergarten on or before April 28, 2021 whose parent/guardian appropriately submitted a statement necessary for the religious exemption shall have until September 1, 2022 to comply with CT's required immunizations or within fourteen days after transferring to a different public or private school, whichever is later. The deadline for such pre-school/pre-kindergarten student complying with the immunization requirements can be altered if the school/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.

NOTE: In the situation regarding religious exemption, a child is considered enrolled in school on or before April 28, 2021 as a parent/guardian provide documentation, consistent with District policy, establishing that such child is eligible to attend school in the district in the current or upcoming school year based upon age and residency, and that the family intends for the child to do so, whether the District refers to eligibility as “registration” or “enrollment”. Families that took such steps, on or before April 28, 2021, toward having children attend Kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year would be considered enrolled in the district as a Kindergarten student. Such a student would be eligible for a religious exemption if the student also provided a valid religious exemption statement by midnight on April 27, 2021. (CSDE Guidance – 5/25/21)

It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that each student enrolled has been adequately immunized and has fulfilled the required health assessments. The school nurse shall check and document immunizations and health assessments on all students enrolling in school and to report the status to the school principal. The school nurse shall also contact parents or guardians to make them aware if immunizations and/or health assessments are insufficient or not up-to-date. The school nurse will maintain in good order the immunization and health assessment records of each student enrolled. The school nurse will report to the local Director of Health any occurrence of State of Connecticut defined reportable communicable diseases.

No student’s medical assessment may be open to the public.

As required, beginning February 2004, the district will annually report to the Department of Public Health and to the local health director the asthma data obtained through the required asthma assessments, including student demographics. The district, as required, will also participate in annual school surveys conducted by the Department of Public Health pertaining to asthma.

(cf. Board Policy 5111 – Admission
5141.31 – Physical Examinations for School Programs
5125 – Student Records
6145.2 -Intramural Sports)

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes: 10-204 Vaccination; 10-204a Required immunizations (as amended by PA 15-174 and PA 15-242); PA 21-6 An Act Concerning Immunizations; 0-204c Immunity from liability; 10-205 Appointment of school medical advisers; 10-206 Health assessments (as amended by June Special Session PA 01-1, PA 05-272 and PA07-58); 10-206a Free health assessments; 10-207 Duties of medical advisers; 10-208 Exemption from examination or treatment; 10-208a Physical activity of student restricted; Board to honor notice.; 10-209 School nurses; 10-212 School nurses; 10-214 Vision, audiometric and postural screenings. When required.; Notification of parents re. defects; record of results, as amended by PA 96-229,An Act Concerning Scoliosis Screening; 20 U.S.C. Section 123h, NCLB Act.

1st Reading: September 27, 2000
Policy Adopted: October 25, 2000
Policy Revision 1st Reading: September 11, 2002
Policy Adopted: September 25, 2002
Policy Adopted: December 7, 2015
Policy Revision 1st Reading: October 4, 2021
Policy Adopted: November 1, 2021