

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Salem, Connecticut

STUDENTS

HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 10-206, 10-204a and 10-214, the following health assessment procedures are established for students in the district:

1) Proof of immunization shall be required prior to school entry. A “school-aged child” also includes any student enrolled in an adult education program that leads to a high school diploma. This immunization verification is mandatory for all new school enterers and must include complete documentation of those immunizations requiring a full series. A required immunization record includes:

a) For initial entry into school for kindergarten, regular and special education pre-school programs:

- 4 doses of DTP/DTap vaccine (Diphtheria – Pertussis – Tetanus). At least one dose is required to be administered on or after the 4th birthday for children entering school at 48 to 71 months of age.

(Pertussis immunization shall not be required after a student’s sixth birthday),

- 3 doses of Polio Vaccine with at least one dose of polio vaccine administered on or after the 4th birthday and before school entry. (This then usually results in 4 doses in total.)
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine (measles, mumps and rubella). One dose at 1 year of age or after and a second dose prior to school entry OR disease protection, confirmed in writing, by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse that the child has had a confirmed case of such disease based on specific blood testing conducted by a certified laboratory.
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (HBV) or confirmed blood test (for any individual born January 1, 1994 or later).
- 1 dose of Hib (Hemophilus Influenza type b) is required of all school children who enter school prior to their fifth birthday or had a laboratory confirmed infection at age 24 months or older, confirmed in writing by a physician.
- Varicella (Chickenpox) Immunity:

1. All students born January 1, 1997 or later must show proof of immunity to varicella (chickenpox) for entry into licensed pre-school programs and kindergarten.
2. Proof of immunity includes any of the following:
 - Documentation of age appropriate immunizations considered to be one dose administered on or after the student's first birthday (if the student is less than 13 years old) or two doses administered at least 30 days apart for students whose initial vaccination is at thirteen years of age or older.
 - Serologic evidence of past infection.
 - Statement signed and dated by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse indicating a child has already had chickenpox based on family and/or medical history. (Date of chickenpox illness not required).
3. All students are required to show proof of immunity (see above) to Varicella for entry into 7th grade.

b) For entry into seventh (7th) grade:

- Proof of having received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine.

In those instances entry to seventh grade, where an individual has not received a second dose of measles contained vaccine, a second dose shall be given. If an individual has received no measles containing vaccines, the second dose shall be given no less than thirty (30) days after the first. (Students entering 7th grade must show proof of having received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine).

- Proof of Varicella (Chickenpox) Immunity.
 - 1) Two doses, given at least 30 days apart for students whose initial vaccination is at 13 years of age and older or,
 - 2) Serologic evidence of past infection, or
 - 3) A statement signed and dated by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse indicating that the child has already had chickenpox based on family and/or medical history. (Date of chickenpox illness not required).
- Proof of at least one dose of Hepatitis B vaccine or show proof of serologic evidence of infection with Hepatitis B.

NOTE: Students must show proof of 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine or serologic evidence of infection to enter eighth grade.

Immunization requirements are satisfied if a student presents verification of the above mentioned required immunizations.

Students shall be exempt from the appropriate provisions of this policy when:

- 1) they present a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or a local health agency stating that initial immunizations have been administered to the child and additional immunizations are in process under guidelines and schedules specified by the Commissioner of Health Services; or
- 2) they present a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse stating that in the opinion of the medical provider immunization is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of such child. Such certification shall be provided on the medical exemption certificate developed by the Department of Public Health and available on its website; or
- 3) they present a written statement from their parent or guardian that such immunization would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or his/her parents/guardians; such statement to be officially acknowledged by a notary public or judge, a court clerk/deputy clerk, a town clerk, a justice of the peace, a CT 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; or

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| <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> |
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- 4) 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.
- 5) in the case of measles, mumps or rubella, present a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or from the Director of Health in such child's present or previous town of residence, stating that the child has had a confirmed case of such disease; or
- 6) in the case of Haemophilus influenza type B has passed his or her fifth birthday; or

- 7) in the case of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, has a medical exemption confirmed in writing by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse (per CGS 19a-7f).

The school nurse will report to the local Director of Health any occurrence of State of Connecticut defined reportable communicable diseases.

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)

Students failing to meet the above requirements shall not be allowed to attend school.

- 2) A physical examination including blood pressure, height, weight, hematocrit or hemoglobin, and beginning with the 2003-04 school year, a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma and which must include public health related screening questions for parents to answer and other screening questions for providers and screenings for hearing, vision, speech, and gross dental shall be required for all new school enterers, and students in grade 6 or grade 7. This health assessment must be completed either prior to school entry or 30 calendar days after the beginning of school for new school enterers. This assessment must be conducted within the school year for students in grade 6.

A test for tuberculosis is not mandatory, but should be performed if any of the following risk factors prevail:

- a) birth in a high risk country of the world (to include all countries in Africa, Asia, the former Soviet Union, Central and South America, Dominican Republic and Haiti);
- b) travel to a high risk country since the previously required examination;
- c) extensive contact with persons who have recently come to the United States since the previously required examination;
- d) contact with persons suspected to have tuberculosis;
- e) have been incarcerated;
- f) have been living in a homeless shelter, or
- g) have HIV infection.

Health assessments completed within two calendar years of new school entry or grade 6 will be accepted by the school system. Failure of students to satisfy the above mentioned health assessment timeliness and/or requirements shall result in exclusion from school.

(Note: As an alternative, health assessment could be held in grades 7 and 10).

Beginning in February 2004, schools shall report to the Department of Public Health and to the local health director the asthma data obtained through school assessments, including student demographics.

- 3) Parents or guardians of students being excluded from school due to failure to meet health assessment requirements shall be given a thirty calendar day notice in writing, prior to any effective date of school exclusion. Failure to complete required health assessment components within this thirty day grace period shall result in school exclusion. This exclusion shall be verified, in writing, by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. Parents of excluded students may request an administrative hearing of a health assessment-related exclusion within five days of final exclusion notice. An administrative hearing shall be conducted and a decision rendered within fifteen calendar days after receipt of request. A subcommittee of the Board of Education shall conduct an administrative hearing and will consider written and/or oral testimony offered by parents and/or school officials.
- 4) Health assessments shall be required for all students according to the following schedule:

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| Vision Screening | Grades K, 1, 3, 4, 5 |
| Audiometric Screening | Grades K, 1, 3, 4, 5 |
| Postural Screening | Grades 5, 7 for females and Grades 8 or 9 for males |

The school system shall provide these screenings to students at no cost to parents. Parents shall be provided an annual written notification of screenings to be conducted. Parents wishing to have these screenings conducted by their private physician shall be required to report screening results to the school nurse. The District shall provide a brief statement to parents/guardians of students not receiving the required vision, hearing or postural screenings explaining why the student did not receive such screening(s).

(Health assessments may be conducted by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant or by the School Medical Advisor.)

- 5) The Superintendent will notify parents of students failing to meet standards of screening or deemed in need of further testing.

Students eligible for free health assessments shall have them provided by the health services staff. Parents of these students choosing to have a health assessment conducted by medical personnel outside of the school system shall do so at no cost to the school system.

- 6) Health records shall be maintained in accordance with Policy #5125.
- 7) All candidates for all athletic teams shall be required to have a physical examination on record in accordance with Board of Education Policy 6145.2.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes: 10-204 Vaccination. 10-204A Required immunizations. PA 21-6 An Act Concerning Immunizations. 10-204c Immunity from liability. 10-205 Appointment of School medical advisers. 10-206 Health assessments (as amended by June Special Session PA 01-4 and PA 01-9). 10-206a Free health assessment (as amended by June Special Session PA-01-1). 10-207 Duties of medical advisers. 10-208 Exemption from examination or treatment. 10-208a Physical activity of student restricted; boards 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 and PA 15-215 An Act Concerning Minor Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes.

1st Reading: September 27, 2000

Procedures Adopted: October 25, 2000

Procedures Revised: September 11, 2002

Procedures Adopted: September 25, 2002

Revised Procedures 1st Reading: August 18, 2014

Revised Procedures Adopted: September 8, 2014

Revised Procedures Adopted: December 7, 2015

Revised Procedures 1st Reading: October 4, 2021

Revised Procedures Adopted: November 1, 2021

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