

Regulation 5141.3 Health Examinations

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 06/1996

Last Revised Date: 08/28/2024

The principal at each school shall notify parents/guardians of the rights of students and parents/guardians related to health examinations. (Education Code 48980; 20 USC 1232h) A parent/guardian may annually file with the principal a written statement withholding consent to the child's physical examination. Any such student shall be exempt from any physical examination but shall be subject to exclusion from attendance when contagious or infectious disease is reasonably suspected. (Education Code 49451; 20 USC 1232h)

Vision Tests

Each student's vision shall be appraised, by the school nurse or other personnel authorized under Education Code 49452, during the kindergarten year or upon first enrollment or entry in a district elementary school and subsequently in grades 2, 5, and 8. However, a student who is tested upon first enrollment or entry in the district in grade 4 or 7 shall not be required to be appraised in the next immediate year. (Education Code 49455)

The vision appraisal shall include tests for visual acuity, including near vision. Male students shall also be tested once for color vision in grade 1 or later and the results of the appraisal shall be entered in the student's health record. (Education Code 49455)

Appraisal of a student's vision may be waived under either of the following conditions: (Education Code 49455)

1. The student's parent/guardian requests a waiver and presents a certificate from a physician/surgeon, physician assistant, or optometrist showing the results of an examination of the student's vision, including visual acuity and, in male students, color vision.
2. The student's parents/guardians file with the principal a written statement 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.

Visual defects or any other defects found as a result of the vision examination shall be reported to the parent/guardian with a request that remedial action be taken to correct or cure the defect. The report of a visual defect, if made in writing, shall be made on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The report shall not include a referral to any private practitioner. However, the student may be referred to a public clinic or diagnostic and treatment center operated by a public hospital or by the state, county, or city department of public health. (Education Code 49456)

In addition to the vision appraisals described above, the school nurse and/or classroom teacher shall continually and regularly observe students' eyes, appearance, behavior, visual performance, and perception that may indicate vision difficulties. (Education Code 49455)

Eye Examinations for the Purpose of Eyeglasses

In addition to the vision appraisals described above, the district may enter into a memorandum of understanding with a nonprofit eye examination provider, including a mobile provider, to provide noninvasive eye examinations at a district school exclusively for the purpose of providing eyeglasses. (Education Code 49455.5)

Prior to any eye examination, the school shall notify parents/guardians of the upcoming eye examination and include a form that allows them to opt their child out of the examination. Parents/guardians who have submitted a general opt-out written statement in accordance with Education Code 49451 are deemed to have opted out. (Education Code 49455.5)

Parents/guardians whose child receives an eye examination shall be provided a report by the provider in accordance with Education Code 49456. (Education Code 49455.5)

Hearing Tests

The Superintendent or designee shall provide for the administration of hearing tests to district students by personnel authorized to conduct such testing pursuant to Education Code 49452 and 49454 and in accordance with the procedures specified in 17 CCR 2951.

Each student shall be given a hearing screening test at the following times: (17 CCR 2951)

1. Kindergarten or grade 1
2. Grade 2
3. Grade 5
4. Grade 8
5. Grade 10 or 11
6. Upon first entry into the California public school system

Each student enrolled in a special education program, other than those enrolled because of a hearing problem, shall be given a hearing test when enrolled in the program and every third year thereafter. Hearing tests may be given more frequently as needed, based on the individualized education program team's evaluation of the student. (17 CCR 2951)

A follow-up hearing threshold test shall be administered to any student who fails to respond to any of the required frequencies in the screening test or is otherwise determined to need further evaluation. (17 CCR 2951)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide written notification of test results to the parents/guardians of any student who fails the hearing tests. When the test results fall within the levels specified in 17 CCR 2951 or there is evidence of pathology, such as an infection of the outer ear, chronic drainage, or a chronic earache, the notification shall include a recommendation that a further medical and audiological evaluation be obtained. (17 CCR 2951)

The dates and results of all screening tests and copies of threshold tests shall be included in the student's health records. (17 CCR 2951)

The principal or designee shall prepare an annual report of the school hearing testing program, using forms provided by the Department of Health Services, with copies to the Superintendent and the County Superintendent of Schools. (17 CCR 2951)

Scoliosis Screening

Each female student in grade 7 and each male student in grade 8 shall be screened for scoliosis. (Education Code 49452.5)

The parent/guardian of any student suspected of having scoliosis shall receive a notice which includes an explanation of scoliosis and describes the significance of treatment at an early age. This notice shall also describe the public services available for treatment and include a referral to appropriate community resources. (Education Code 49452.5)

Type 1 Diabetes Information

The Superintendent or designee shall provide parents/guardians of children enrolled in elementary school for the first time, or with the annual notifications pursuant to Education Code 48980, an information sheet developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) regarding type 1 diabetes as specified in Education Code 49452.6.

Type 2 Diabetes Information

Because type 2 diabetes in children is a preventable and treatable disease, parents/guardians are encouraged to have their child screened by an authorized health care practitioner for risk factors of the disease, including excess weight, and to request tests of their child's blood glucose to determine if the child has type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide parents/guardians of incoming students in grade 7, or with the annual notifications pursuant to Education Code 48980, an information sheet developed by CDE regarding type 2 diabetes, which includes: (Education Code 49452.7)

1. A description of the disease and its risk factors and warning signs
2. A recommendation that students displaying or possibly suffering from risk factors or warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes be screened for the disease

3. A description of the different types of diabetes screening tests available
4. A description of treatments and prevention methods

The Superintendent or designee may provide information to parents/guardians regarding public or private sources from which they may receive diabetes screening and education services for free or at reduced costs.

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 05/15/2015
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Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

| State | Description |
|---|--|
| 17 CCR 2950-2951 | Hearing tests |
| 5 CCR 3027 | Hearing and vision screening for special education |
| 5 CCR 3028 | Audiological screening |
| 5 CCR 590-596 | Vision screening |
| Ed. Code 44871-44879 | Employment qualifications |
| Ed. Code 48980 | Parent/Guardian notifications |
| Ed. Code 49400-49414.5 | Student health; general powers of school boards |
| Ed. Code 49422 | Supervision of health and physical development |
| Ed. Code 49450-49458 | Physical examinations of students |
| Ed. Code 49460-49466 | Development of standardized health assessments |
| Gov. Code 17581.5 | Specific costs mandated by the state |
| H&S Code 120325-120380 | Immunization against communicable diseases |
| H&S Code 121475-121520 | Tuberculosis tests for students |
| H&S Code 124025-124110 | Child Health and Disability Prevention Program |
| H&S Code 1685-1686 | Audiometrists |
| Federal | Description |
| 20 USC 1232g | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 |
| 20 USC 1232h | Privacy rights |
| Management Resources | Description |
| CA Department of Health Care Services Publication | Manual for the School Audiometrist |
| California Department of Education Publication | Standards for Scoliosis Screening in California Public Schools, 2007 |
| California Department of Education Publication | A Guide for Vision Testing in California Public Schools, 2005 |
| CSBA Publication | Expanding Access to School Health Services: Policy Considerations for Governing Boards, November 2008 |
| CSBA Publication | Promoting Oral Health for California's Students: New Roles, New Opportunities for Schools, November 2008 |
| U.S. Department of Education Publication | Joint Guidance on the Application of FERPA and HIPAA to Student Health Records, November 2008 |

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| Website | CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services |
| Website | California Department of Education, Type 2 Diabetes Information |
| Website | California Department of Education, Health Services and School Nursing |
| Website | California Department of Health Care Services |
| Website | CSBA |

Cross References

| Code | Description |
|-------------|--|
| 4231 | Staff Development |
| 5020 | Parent Rights And Responsibilities |
| 5020 | Parent Rights And Responsibilities |
| 5022 | Student And Family Privacy Rights |
| 5022 | Student And Family Privacy Rights |
| 5030 | Student Wellness |
| 5111 | Admission |
| 5111 | Admission |
| 5112.2 | Exclusions From Attendance |
| 5125 | Student Records |
| 5125 | Student Records |
| 5141.22 | Infectious Diseases |
| 5141.22 | Infectious Diseases |
| 5141.23 | Asthma Management |
| 5141.23 | Asthma Management |
| 5141.26 | Tuberculosis Testing |
| 5141.31 | Immunizations |
| 5141.31 | Immunizations |
| 5141.32 | Health Screening For School Entry |
| 5141.33 | Head Lice |
| 5141.6 | School Health Services |
| 5141.6 | School Health Services |
| 5143 | Insurance |
| 5143 | Insurance |
| 5145.6 | Parent/Guardian Notifications |
| 5145.6-E(1) | Parent/Guardian Notifications |
| 5148 | Child Care And Development |
| 5148 | Child Care And Development |
| 6142.8 | Comprehensive Health Education |
| 6142.8 | Comprehensive Health Education |
| 6145.2 | Athletic Competition |
| 6145.2 | Athletic Competition |
| 6164.5 | Student Success Teams |
| 6164.5 | Student Success Teams |
| 6170.1 | Transitional Kindergarten |