



GRACE ACADEMY

HEALTH POLICY

Illness

Students with a fever of 100.4°F or above, vomiting, and/or diarrhea within the past 24 hours should not come to school. Students with a fever of 100.4°F or above, vomiting, and/or diarrhea at school will be sent home. If students are fever-free but display severe symptoms, they can be sent home at the discretion of the school nurse.

Grace Academy does not maintain facilities to care for sick students and will notify parents to pick them up from Grace Academy immediately. If a student has an illness that a doctor determines to be contagious, consideration of other students must be given, and parents should keep children at home until they are no longer contagious. Parents are responsible for informing the school if the child has a contagious disease or has been exposed to it.

Screening

Vision and Hearing

The Texas Health and Safety Code requires that all children enrolled for the first time in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school or in a Department of Family and Protective Services licensed child-care center and licensed child care home in Texas, or who meet specific grade criteria (specified below), must be screened or have a professional examination for possible vision and hearing problems. The requirements apply each year for children enrolled in any licensed child-care center, licensed child care home, or school program at the ages or grades listed below:

- Children who turn 4-years-old by September 1, kindergartners, or any other first-time entrants (4 years* through 12th grade) - screening must be done within 120 days of admission.
- 1st-, 3rd-, 5th- and 7th graders - screening must be done anytime within the school year (preferably within first semester)

Acanthosis Nigricans Screening

The Texas Risk Assessment for Type 2 Diabetes in Children is a legislatively mandated program developed, coordinated, and administered by The University of Texas Pan-American Border Health Office (BHO). The program assesses children who may be at high risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes in Texas Education Agency Regional Education Service Centers 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, and 20. During vision/hearing and scoliosis screenings of 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th graders in public and private schools, certified individuals assess children for the acanthosis nigricans marker, a skin condition that signals high insulin levels. Children who are positively identified with the marker undergo additional assessments of body mass index (BMI), BMI percentile, and blood pressure. Referrals are issued to the parents of these children, alerting each parent of their child's risk factors, and encouraging further evaluation from a health professional. Becoming aware of and understanding what the risk factors suggest can help stimulate the changes necessary to prevent or delay future health problems for children at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes and other conditions.

Spinal

In 1985, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 832 which requires screening for abnormal spinal curves for students in grades 6 and 9 (or 5 and 8) attending public and private schools. The guidelines were updated in the 2018-19 school year based on new recommendations for evidence-based practice. In compliance with the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 37, all children shall undergo screening for abnormal spinal curvature in accordance with the following schedule:

- Girls will be screened two times, once at age 10 (or fall semester of grade 5) and again at age 12 (or fall semester of grade 7).
- Boys will be screened one time at age 13 or 14 (or fall semester of grade 8).

It is incumbent on schools to identify outliers (i.e., children promoted to higher grades or held back) and ensure their screenings align with appropriate ages rather than grades. The school must notify the parents if a child shows any signs of a possible curvature.

If you do not wish for the nurse to perform the state-required screenings, parents/ guardians must notify the campus nurse at the beginning of the school year and substitute with a professional examination by a healthcare provider of your choice. Contact the nurse for further instructions or to inquire about a religious exemption. If documentation is not provided, students will be screened before the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Allergies, Asthma, and Seizure Disorders

Grace Academy requests to be notified when a student has been diagnosed with a food or other life-threatening allergy, asthma, or seizure disorder. If your child's health changes during the school year, please get in touch with the school nurse.

Each child with a known allergy, asthma, or seizure disorder must have the appropriate action plan completed by their pediatrician and on file at Grace Academy.

Head Lice

Head lice, although not an illness or a disease, are prevalent among children and are spread very easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, or nap time, and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones. Students must be picked up from school if live lice are present. Students can complete the school day and be treated that night if only nits(eggs) are present.

If a student is noted to have head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parents to discuss a treatment plan. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments and how best to eliminate lice and prevent their return. Upon returning to school, the student will be reassessed. Parents/guardians will be notified as needed.

Impetigo

Students with impetigo can return to school if they have started antibiotic treatment. They should also cover all sores on exposed skin.