Title: **Communicable Diseases and Immunization**
Code: 203
Book: Policy Manual
Section: 200 Pupils

Authority

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Board requires that established policy and guidelines be followed.[1][2]

Guidelines

Immunization

All students shall be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with Pennsylvania statutes, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.

No student shall be admitted to or permitted to attend district schools who has not been immunized in accordance with state regulations, unless provisionally admitted or exempted for medical or religious reasons by the Superintendent.[2][3][4]

A student shall be exempt from immunization requirements whose parent/guardian objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds or whose physician certifies that the student's physical condition contraindicates immunization.[2][3][5]

Monitoring of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee and the building principal and/or head nurse.[2]

The Superintendent shall:

1. Annually review state standards for immunization and direct accordingly the responsible district personnel.

2. Inform parents/guardians prior to a student's entry to school for the first time of the requirements for immunization, the requisite proof of immunization, exemption available for religious or medical reasons, and means by which such exemptions may be claimed.[2][4][5][6][7]

Health Records

A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the district. The record shall include the results of required tests, measurements, screenings, and regular and special examinations.[8][9]

All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or to a physician at the written request of the parent/guardian.[10]

As part of the health record, a certificate of immunization shall be maintained for each student enrolled, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.[6]

The district shall require parents/guardians to annually complete a medical history report form that includes information regarding known communicable diseases.

Attendance

The Board authorizes that students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the Department of Health for certain specified diseases and infectious conditions.[11][12]

The school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the Department of Health.[13][14]

Education

Instruction regarding prevention of communicable and life threatening diseases shall be provided by the schools in the educational program for all levels, in accordance with state regulations.[15]

Parents/Guardians shall be informed of and be provided opportunities during school hours to review all curriculum materials used in such instruction.[16][15]

Adopted: **October 21, 1981**
Last Revised: **November 15, 2005**

Legal References:

- 1. 28 PA Code 23.81 et seq
- 2. 24 P.S. 1303a
- 3. 22 PA Code 11.20
- 4. 28 PA Code 23.83
- 5. 28 PA Code 23.84
- 6. 28 PA Code 23.85
- 7. Pol. 201
- 8. 24 P.S. 1402
- 9. Pol. 209
- 10. 24 P.S. 1409
- 11. 28 PA Code 27.71
- 12. 28 PA Code 27.72
- 13. 28 PA Code 27.2
- 14. 28 PA Code 27.23
- 15. 22 PA Code 4.29
- 16. 22 PA Code 4.4
- Pol. 105.1
- Pol. 105.2
- Pol. 200