

Section J:

**Students**

# **Knox County Board of Education**

Descriptor Term:

**Physical Examinations and  
Immunizations**

Descriptor Code:

**J-351**

Issued:

**7/95**

Reviewed:

**5/26**

Revised:

**2/24**

1  
2 **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

3  
4 The principal and school nurse shall ensure that there is a complete physical examination of every student  
5 entering school for the first time and every student participating in interscholastic athletics.

6  
7 Children of active members of the military or Tennessee National Guard are not required to obtain a  
8 physical evaluation from a Tennessee health care provider prior to enrolling in a Tennessee school.

9  
10 A child or youth determined to be homeless cannot be denied admission to any school or school facility  
11 due to not being able to produce a physical examination record. The enrolling school must comply with  
12 any and all federal laws pertaining to the educational rights of children and youth experiencing  
13 homelessness, including the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

14  
15 **KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENT**

16  
17 A physical examination must be completed by a medical provider and dated within 12 months prior to  
18 the first day of school. The form to be completed is the Tennessee School Immunization Certificate which  
19 may be obtained from a health care provider. A student may be enrolled without this information but must  
20 file it with the school within 30 calendar days or risk dismissal.

21  
22 **FIRST - TWELFTH GRADE REQUIREMENT**

23  
24 Written proof of a medical examination completed by a medical provider. This includes proof brought in  
25 person or provided in records from the previous school. A student may be enrolled in school without this  
26 information but must file it with the school within 30 calendar days or risk dismissal.

27  
28 Physical examinations contained in records from students transferring from other school systems may be  
29 accepted if stated guidelines are met.

30  
31 Cost of the examination shall be borne by parent or legal guardian of the student. All physical and  
32 immunization records shall be kept on file in the student's cumulative record.

33  
34 **IMMUNIZATIONS**

35  
36 Students entering school, including those entering pre-school, kindergarten or those students from out-  
37 of-state, nonpublic schools, and students entering seventh grade will not be permitted to enroll (or attend)  
38 without required immunizations, as determined by the Commissioner of Public Health.<sup>1,4</sup> It is the  
39 responsibility of the parents or legal guardians to have their children immunized and to provide such proof  
40 to the school which the student is to attend.<sup>2</sup>

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1 Exceptions, in the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat thereof, shall be granted to any child whose  
2 parent or legal guardian shall file with school authorities a signed Refusal Due to Personal Religious  
3 Beliefs document; or due to medical reasons if such child has a written statement from a medical provider  
4 excusing him/her from such immunizations.<sup>3</sup> Proof of exceptions shall be in writing and filed in the same  
5 manner as other immunization records.

6  
7 A child or youth determined to be homeless cannot be denied admission to any school or school facility  
8 if the child or youth has not yet been immunized or is unable to produce immunization records due to  
9 being homeless. The enrolling school shall comply with any and all federal law’s pertaining to the  
10 educational rights of homeless children and youth, including the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance  
11 Act.

12  
13 An immunization certificate containing documentation of other required health information (physical  
14 examination, vision/hearing screening) must be provided in addition to the religious exemption form or  
15 the written statement due to medical reasons from a medical provider.

16  
17 Knox County Schools must ensure schools provide parents and legal guardians with information about  
18 meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease at the  
19 beginning of every school year. This information must include the causes, symptoms, and means by which  
20 meningococcal disease is spread and the places where parents and legal guardians may obtain additional  
21 information and vaccinations for their children.<sup>5</sup>

22  
23 Knox County Schools must ensure schools provide parents and legal guardians with information about  
24 influenza disease and the effectiveness of vaccinations against influenza at the beginning of every school  
25 year. This information must include the causes, symptoms, and means by which influenza is spread and  
26 the places where parents and legal guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their  
27 children.

28  
29 A list of transfer students shall be kept at each school throughout the school year in order that their records  
30 can be monitored by school nurses or the Tennessee Department of Health.

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39 Legal References:

- 40 1. T.C.A. § 49-6-5001(a)(c) (1); TRR/MS § 0520-1-3-.08(2)(a).  
41 2. TRR/MS § 0520-1-3-.08(2)(a).  
42 3. T.C.A. § 49-6-5001(b)(2); T.C.A. § 49-6-5001(c)(2).  
43 4. T.C.A § 49-6-5002(a)(2).  
44 5. T.C.A § 49-6-5005.

45  
46 Approved as to Legal Form  
47 By Knox County Law Director 1/2/2024  
48 /Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director

49