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georgiacyber.org

Georgia Cyber Academy Governing Board

Health Screening and Immunization Policy

Adopted On: _____Last Reviewed On: _____ Last Updated On: _____

The Board of GCA adopts the following policy, effective on the date of adoption by the Board.

Health Screening and Immunization Policy

The Head of School or designee shall develop procedures to address immunization requirements and vision, hearing, dental and nutrition screening requirements for all students as required by state law. Such procedures shall ensure that parents are provided with notification of such requirements prior to enrollment in the school.

The health screening and immunization notification and procedures can be found at https://www.georgiacyber.org/resources/health-safety

State Reference

O.C.G.A 20-2-770 and 20-2-771
DPH Rule Sections 511-2-2, 511-5-6, and 511-5-8

Health Screening Considerations Notice to Parents

The goal of Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) is to promote the health of students within the school and the community by providing notice of health screening requirements and considerations:

- Georgia's Immunization Requirements and School Attendance
- Vision Screening
- Hearing Screening
- Dental Screening
- Scoliosis Screening

Georgia's Immunization Requirements & School Attendance

All students must comply with the requirements of the State Immunization Code.

Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231)
Georgia Law requires children attending school (Kindergarten – 12th grade) to be age appropriately immunized with all the required vaccines at the time of first entry in school. A new entrant is a child entering a school in Georgia for the first time or entering after having been absent from a Georgia school for more than 12 months or one school year. All students, regardless of grade and including foreign exchange students, must have the Georgia Department of Human Resources Form 3231 immunization certificate marked "Complete for School" unless any of the following situations exist:
1. Medical exemption: In this case, the 3231 has an expiration date no more than 12 months from date of issue. There must be an annual review of the medical exemption, and the certificate must be reissued with or without indication of the medical exemption.
2. Religious exemption: For a child to be exempt from immunization on religious grounds the parent or guardian must furnish the school with a notarized statement, and it must meet the Following criteria:
(A) state that their religious beliefs conflict with immunization requirements; (B) the statement must be signed and dated by the parent/guardian; (C) the statement must be notarized, dated, and signed by a Notary Public; (D) the statement should be submitted to the school in lieu of an immunization certificate (form 3231); (E) the statement does not expire.
3. Waiver of 30 calendar days granted to new entrants by the superintendent or designee.
4. Waiver of 90 calendar days may be granted by the superintendent or designee to students entering Georgia public schools from out of state, if documentation is on file from the county health department or a medical doctor stating that an immunization sequence has been started and can be completed within the 90 day waiver period.
5. Immunizations are required for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (chicken pox). Protection against each of these diseases must be addressed on the form 3231. The form can be computer generated, and if the child attends more than one school, an original or a photocopy of the form must be submitted to the second school.

Sixth Grade Immunization Requirements
All currently enrolled children entering sixth grade on or after July 1, 2015, must meet the following requirements:
1. Two doses of Measles vaccine, two doses of Mumps vaccine, one dose of Rubella vaccine, or laboratory proof of immunity against each of these three diseases.
2. Two doses of Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or documentation of disease or laboratory proof of immunity. At the time your child entered school, only one dose of this vaccine was required.

Seventh Grade Immunization Requirements
Effective July 1, 2015, all children born on or after January 1, 2002 who are attending seventh grade and children who are new entrants into a Georgia school in grades eight through twelve:
1. One dose of Tdap vaccine
2. One dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine

For more information about Georgia's immunization program or the immunization requirements for school entry and attendance, please click on the following links to the Georgia Department of Public Health Resources:

https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/Immunization%20Requirements%20%20for%20Georgia%20Child%20Care%20and%20School%20Attendance.pdf

https://dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section

Certificate of Eye, Ear, Dental Exam (Form 3300)
A student, regardless of grade level, who has never been in a Georgia public school must provide certification of eye, ear, and dental examinations on the Georgia Department of Human Resources Form 3300. Any child admitted to school without a certificate must present one within 60 calendar days. Forms may be obtained and completed at the local public health departments or physician offices.

Scoliosis Screening

In Georgia, Scoliosis screenings are required in at least two grades – sixth, seventh or eighth. Scoliosis is a physical condition characterized by a lateral deviation of the spine away from the midline of the body. It is known that two children out of every 100 may have Scoliosis. If this condition is detected early and appropriately treated, progressive spine irregularity can usually be prevented. The procedure for screening is a simple test in which the child's back is examined in the standing position and while bending forward.

Helpful Scoliosis Resources:

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta:

http://choa.org/scoliosis

United Way:

http://211online.unitedwayatlanta.org/(S(pwlltxk5dibx2mfajnhfljv5))/MatchList.aspx?c30315;;7493;;F;0;0;United%20Way%20Initiatives/Programs;Health;0;Scoliosis%20Detection;0;C

How to Check for Scoliosis (You Tube Video):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSIeNA6sqrc

The child's primary healthcare provider or a health department can provide complete information for suggested screenings, programs, and any necessary treatment.