BOARD POLICY

209 Health Examinations/Screenings

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Authority

In compliance with the School Code, the Board shall require that district students submit to health and dental examinations in order to:[1] [2] [3] [4]

1. Protect the school community from the spread of communicable disease.
2. Ensure that the student's participation in health, safety and physical education meets his/her individual needs.
3. Ensure that the learning potential of each student is not lessened by a remediable physical disability.

Guidelines

Each student shall receive a comprehensive health examination upon original entry, in sixth grade, and in eleventh grade, conducted by a physician.[2] [4] [5]

Each student shall receive a comprehensive dental examination upon original entry, in third grade, and in seventh grade, conducted by a dentist.[3] [4] [5]

A private health and/or dental examination conducted at the parents'/guardians' request and expense will be accepted in lieu of the school examination.[5]

The district will accept reports of privately conducted physical and dental examinations completed within one (1) year prior to a student's entry into the grade where an exam is required.

Each student shall receive, from a certified school nurse or health room nurse, vision tests, hearing tests, and other tests deemed advisable, at intervals established by the district.[2] [4] [6]

The individual records of health examinations shall be maintained as a confidential record, subject to statute and Board policy.[7] **[8]**

The school nurse or other health care practitioner shall conduct measurements of height and weight for each student for the purpose of tracking growth patterns. Height and weight measurements will be conducted at intervals established by the district and in a manner that protects student confidentiality. Parents/Guardians have the right to request an exemption from height and weight measurements for their child, and the district must provide notification of the exemption request procedure.[2][25]

A student who presents a statement signed by the parent/guardian that a medical examination is contrary to his/her religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that the student presents a substantial risk to the health of others.[9] [10]

Where it appears to school health officials that a student deviates from normal growth and development, or where school examinations reveal conditions requiring health or dental care, the parent/guardian shall be informed; and a recommendation shall be made that the parent/guardian consult a private physician or dentist. The parent/guardian shall be required to report to the school the action taken subsequent to such notification. When the parent/guardian informs the school of financial inability to provide an examination, or lack proper health insurance, the school shall advise him/her of the availability of school social work services that will assist in acquiring public assistance for health care services. Where no medical action is taken by the parents/guardians to address the needs of the child, the school will conduct and refer cases of medical neglect as required by state mandate.[2] [4] [11]

Parents/Guardians of students who are eligible to receive a physical and dental examination or screening shall be notified. Parents/Guardians, after permission is obtained, will be informed of the date and location of the examination or screening and notice that the parent/guardian may attend or may have the examination or screening conducted privately at the parent's/guardian's expense. Such statement may also include notification that the student may be exempted from such examination or screening if it is contrary to the parent's/ guardian's religious beliefs.[12] [13] [14]

Health Records

The district shall maintain for each student a comprehensive health record which includes a record of immunizations and the results of tests, measurements, regularly scheduled examinations and special examinations.[2]

All health records shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only when necessary for the health of the student or when requested by the parent/guardian, in accordance with law and Board policy.[18][19][20]

The district may disclose information from health records to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[15][18][19][20][21][22][23]

Designated district staff shall request from the transferring school the health records of students transferring into district schools. Staff shall respond to such requests for the health records of students transferring from district schools to other schools.[18]

The district shall destroy student health records only after the student has not been enrolled in district schools for at least two (2) years.[18][24]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall instruct all staff members to continually observe students for conditions that indicate health problems or disability and to promptly report such conditions to the school nurse.[2]

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that educational materials from the state regarding eating disorder awareness and education are made available to students in grades six through twelve. Eating disorder awareness and educational materials must also be posted on the district's website.[26][27]

The Superintendent or designee shall request an adequate health record, to include but not be limited to the required immunizations needed for enrollment, from the sending school for each student transferring into the district.[7]

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that notice is provided to all parents/ guardians regarding the existence of and eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other public assistance programs that provide health care services.[11]

Legal Footnotes

[1] 24 P.S. 1401
LEGAL REFERENCE

[2] 24 P.S. 1402
LEGAL REFERENCE

[3] 24 P.S. 1403
LEGAL REFERENCE

[4] 22 PA Code 12.41
LEGAL REFERENCE

[5] 24 P.S. 1407
LEGAL REFERENCE

[6] 28 PA Code 23.1 et seq
LEGAL REFERENCE

[7] 24 P.S. 1409
LEGAL REFERENCE

[8] Pol. 216 — Education Records
POLICY REFERENCE

[9] 24 P.S. 1419
LEGAL REFERENCE

[10] 28 PA Code 23.45
LEGAL REFERENCE

[11] 24 P.S. 1406
LEGAL REFERENCE

[12] 24 P.S. 1405
LEGAL REFERENCE

[13] 28 PA Code 23.2
LEGAL REFERENCE

[14] 20 U.S.C. 1232h
LEGAL REFERENCE

[18] 1949 Act 14
LEGAL REFERENCE

[22] 34 C.F.R.
LEGAL REFERENCE

[26] 1949 Act 14
LEGAL REFERENCE