

Immunizations, Health Exams and Dental Exams

Immunizations, Health Examinations and Dental Examinations

Immunizations

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the Board requires all students to be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with State statutes, regulations of the Commissioner of Education and rules of the State Department of Health.

Each child entering or attending the schools of the District is required to present a record of immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), pertussis, tetanus and hepatitis B in accordance with the provisions of Section 2164 of the Public Health Law, from a licensed health practitioner. No child may be admitted to school or allowed to attend school in excess of 14 days (and up to 30 days for students transferring from out of state or another country where a good faith effort is being made to get the necessary certification or other evidence of immunization) without certification of the child's immunizations. The District shall notify the Orange County Health Department if a child is denied admission to or attendance in school due to lack of immunizations.

An exception to these requirements will be granted on the basis of the sincere and genuine religious beliefs of the parent/guardian, person in parental relation or student which are contrary to the practice of immunization, upon submission of a written and signed statement to the Principal or designee on the School District form. In addition, if a physician will certify that administering a vaccine to a particular child is detrimental to the child's health, the immunization requirement may be waived by the Superintendent until such immunization is found no longer to be detrimental to the child's health.

If the principal determines to deny a religious exemption, the denial shall be appealable directly to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to §310 of the Education Law. A principal's denial must be immediately issued to the parent/legal guardian in writing setting forth the specific reason(s) for denial.

The Board believes that immunization is the primary responsibility of the parent/guardian or person in parental relation. However, the School District will refer those students who cannot afford such immunizations to the Orange County Health Department.

Health Examinations

In accordance with Section 903 of the Education Law, each student must have a physical examination and present a health certificate to the Principal or designee describing the student's condition, including an assessment of the student's Body Mass Index (BMI) and a determination of weight status category based upon BMI-for-age percentiles, signed by a duly licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner in the state of New York and consistent with any written practice agreement or authorized to practice in the jurisdiction in which the

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examination was given if the Commissioner has determined that the standards of license and practice are comparable to those in New York, within 30 days after his/her entrance to school and within 30 days of his/her entry into pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, the 2nd, 4th, 7th and 10th grades. The physical examination must not have been given more than 12 months prior to the commencement of the school year in which the examination is required and must describe the condition of the student when the examination was made.

If the required health certificate is not furnished at the required times, the Principal or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian or person in parental relation, in writing, that if the required health certificate is not furnished within 30 days of such notice, with their consent, the examination will be made of the student as directed by the Director of School Health Services. The student will be excluded from attendance until the parent/guardian provides proof to the District that either the child has had the required examination, has an appointment for the examination or the parent/guardian has given consent for the District to perform the examination. If the parent/guardian or person in parental relation will not give consent to the examination, other than based upon sincere and genuine religious beliefs, the Orange County Department of Health will be notified and a report will be made to Child Protective Services. The physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner performing the examination, as determined by the Director of School Health Services, shall determine whether the student has defective sight or vision, or any other physical disability which may prevent the student from receiving full educational benefit and whether a one-time test for sickle cell anemia is necessary or desirable and, if so, a referral shall be made to a private or public health provider, the test shall be conducted and the certificate shall state the results of the test.

An examination of any child may be required at any time by the Director of School Health Services, in his/her discretion, after consultation with the Superintendent of Schools or designee and the School Physician, to promote the educational interests of the child.

All students participating in interscholastic athletics shall be required to have a physical examination prior to participation in either practices or games. The participating student must be examined and approved by the School District health practitioners, as directed by the Director of School Health Services, or may be examined by his/her own family physician rather than the School Physician on the form supplied by the school certifying that his/her physical condition warrants participation in interscholastic athletics, subject to review and approval for participation by the Director of School Health Services and School Physician. It is also understood that one or both parents or guardian must give written permission for the student to participate.

The decision of the School Physician regarding participation shall be final. In the event, however, that the Board of Education disagrees with the decision of the School Physician, the Board may determine that a second opinion regarding participation is necessary.

In the event a student who is examined by the School Physician receives a report that he or she may not participate in interscholastic athletics, written notification shall be sent to the parent/guardian that the student will not be permitted to play.

Dental Health Certificates

The School District shall request that a dental health certificate be submitted for each student within 30 days after his/her entrance into school and within 30 days after entrance into the 2nd, 4th, 7th and 10th grades. The dental health certificate shall be signed by a licensed dentist and shall describe the health condition of the student when the examination was conducted, which must be within 12 months prior to the beginning of the school year in which the examination is requested. The dental health certificate, if submitted, shall be filed in the student's cumulative health record.

The School District shall submit a notice of request for dental health certificates at the same time that the notice of health examination requirements are distributed to parents/guardians, including a statement that a list of dentists to which students who need comprehensive dental examinations may be referred for treatment on a free or reduced cost basis, is available upon request at the student's school.

The School District may request an examination and dental health history of any student at any time, in its discretion, to promote the educational interest of such student.

Health Screenings

The District shall provide the following screenings:

1. scoliosis screening at least once each school year for students in grades 5 through 9;
2. vision screening to all students enrolled in school within six months of admission to school, including at a minimum color perception, distance acuity, near vision and hyperopia; and distance acuity screening in grades pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 10, and when deemed necessary;
3. hearing screening to all students within six months of admission to school and in grades pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10 and when deemed necessary.

The parent/guardian or person in parental relation shall be notified, in writing, of the results of the screenings. The results of these health screenings shall be recorded on forms and kept on file in school.

No student shall be required to submit to a health examination, dental examination, health history or screening examination where the parent/guardian, person in parental relation or student submits a written and signed statement that such examination, dental examination, health history or screening conflicts with their genuine and sincere religious beliefs.

NOTE: This policy replaces Policy No. 5310 Health Examinations.