

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

The following information pertains to New York State regulations and City School District of Albany policies governing School Health Services.

IMMUNIZATION

Communicable disease control is a primary responsibility of school and public health authorities. Mandatory immunization is one aspect of a comprehensive communicable disease control program.

New York State Public Health Law, Section 2164 mandates that schools not permit a child to be admitted unless the parent/guardian provides the school with a certificate of immunization or proof from a physician that the child is in the process of receiving the required immunizations.

The required immunizations for school attendance for the current school year are attached.

The required immunizations must be documented by your physician or the Health Department where the child received the immunizations, or must be from an official copy of the immunization record from the child's previous school.

A student may be exempt from any or all immunizations if a physician licensed to practice medicine in New York State certifies that such immunization/s may be detrimental to the child's health. This exemption is applicable until such immunization is found no longer to be detrimental to the child's health. The physician's certificate of exemption must indicate the medical condition or reasons that the specified immunizations might be detrimental to the child's health and the length of time for which the exemption must be in effect.

No certificate of immunization shall be required as a prerequisite to attending school for children whose parents/guardians hold genuine and sincere religious beliefs that are contrary to the practice of immunization. Such parents/guardians shall submit a written statement that must provide the name, address and phone number of their religious leader or advisor and an explanation of the specific belief that is contrary to the practice of immunization.

HEALTH APPRAISALS

Education Law (Section 903) and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require physical examinations of children when they:

- Enter a school district for the first time
- Are in grades Pre-K or K, 1,3,5,7,9, and 11th grade
- Participate in interscholastic sports
- Need working papers
- Are referred to the Committee on Special Education
- Require an appraisal deemed necessary by school authorities to determine an appropriate educational program for the individual

If a report of a child's examination is submitted from a primary health care provider, it must be signed by a physician, a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant working in collaboration with the physician. Submitted reports of examinations must describe the condition of the student when the examination was given and must state whether such student is in a fit condition of bodily health to permit his/her attendance.

The physical appraisal must be no more than twelve months prior to the commencement of the school year in which the examination is required. Students must have a physical prior to participation in interscholastic sports.

DENTAL CERTIFICATES

Amendments to Education Law (Section 903) and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require school districts to request dental certificates for children when they enter school for the first time and in grades Pre-K or K, 1,3,5,7, 9, and 11th grade. Dental health certificates must contain a report of a comprehensive dental examination and be signed by a dentist licensed to practice in New York State.

MEDICATION

School personnel are often asked to give medicine to children during school hours. Many medicines can be taken effectively outside school hours. If your doctor feels it is necessary for medication to be a

administered in school, contact the School Health Office to obtain a "Medication Permission" form. To administer medication to students in school the following steps must be taken for both prescription and over the counter medications.

1. Submit a written order to administer medication in school from your child's physician. The pharmacy label does not constitute a written order and cannot be used in lieu of a written order from a licensed physician. Faxed orders from licensed physicians are acceptable. Verbal permissions from the physician to administer medication are not acceptable.
2. Submit your written request that medication be administered to your child in school as ordered by his/her physician.
3. Deliver your child's medication directly to the Health Office in the original, properly labeled container.

Medications should not be transported daily to and from school. Parents/guardians should ask the pharmacist for two containers, one to remain at home and one at school. Medications must not be transported to school by students on school buses. This presents a danger to all students. Students may not carry medication on their person during the school day.

MEDICAL EXCUSE - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep the school informed of any health condition that would affect their child's safety, school performance, or toleration of physical activity. If for any reason a child is unable to participate in the physical education program, the parent/guardian must provide appropriate documentation from the attending physician indicating the problem, the specific limitations and the duration of those limitations. If a child is to be excused from the regular physical education program for more than two weeks, the parent/guardian must obtain information from the attending physician regarding the student's ability to participate in an adaptive physical education program.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school of any contagious diseases or unusual health problems that the child may have. In this way the school can plan for the child's safety and special needs in order to maximize the child's educational experience.

SCREENING

Vision screening is provided for new entrants and students in grades pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11th. Hearing screening is provided for new entrants and students in grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11th. Height, weight, and body mass index screening are conducted with new entrants and students in grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11th. Parents/Guardians will be notified ONLY if problems are identified.

BODY MASS INDEX (BMI) SURVEY

Each year, a sample of schools in New York State are required to participate in a Department of Health survey to collect data on BMI and students' weight status category. Only summary information is included in the survey. No names or identifying information about individual students are shared. Parents/Guardians must notify the School Nurse in the school their child attends if they choose to have their child's BMI information excluded from the survey report.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

In the event a child is sick or injured in school, it is essential that the school have telephone numbers where a parent or responsible adult can be contacted. If the emergency contacts should change during the school year, parents/guardians MUST notify the school immediately and provide accurate, working phone numbers where a responsible party may be reached.

HEALTH NEEDS

The emotional as well as physical needs of each child are the concern of the School Health Services personnel. Parents/guardians should contact the School Nurse with information regarding the health needs of their child and to obtain information regarding available community health services that could respond to the needs of the child or family.