BOARD POLICY

# 209 Health Examinations/Screenings

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## AUTHORITY

In compliance with applicable law and regulations, and Board-approved health and safety plans, the Board shall require that district students submit to health and dental examinations, screenings and health monitoring in order to protect the school community from the spread of communicable disease and to ensure that the student's participation in health, safety and physical education courses meets the student's individual needs and that the learning potential of each student is not lessened by a remediable physical disability.[1][2][3][4]

## GUIDELINES

District students are required to submit to health and dental examinations, screenings and health monitoring.

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

If requested by a parent or guardian, each
~~Each~~ student shall receive a comprehensive health examination conducted by the school physician upon original entry, in sixth grade, and in eleventh grade.[2][4][5]

If requested by a parent or guardian, each ~~Each~~ student shall receive a comprehensive dental examination conducted by the school dentist upon original entry, in third grade, and in seventh grade.[3][4][5]

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

The school nurse or medical technician shall administer to each student vision tests, hearing tests, tuberculosis tests **and** other tests deemed **advisable at** intervals established by the district. Height and weight measurements shall be used to calculate the student's weight-for-height ratio.[2][4][6]

**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]

Parents/Guardians of students who are to receive physical and dental examinations or screenings shall be notified. The notice shall include the date and location of the examination or screening and notice that the parents/guardians may attend. The notice shall encourage the parent/guardian to have the examination or screening conducted by the student's private physician or dentist at the parent's/guardian's expense to promote continuity of care. 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.[7][8][9]

A student who presents a statement signed by the parent/guardian that a health examination is contrary to the student's or parent's/guardian's religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that facts exist indicating that certain conditions would present a substantial menace to the health of others in contact with the student if the student is not examined for those conditions.[10][11]

Where it appears to school health officials or teachers 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 notified of the apparent need for a special examination by the student's private physician or dentist. The parent/guardian shall report to the school whether a special examination occurred. If the parent/guardian fails to report whether the examination occurred within a reasonable time after being notified of the apparent need and the abnormal condition persists, appropriate school health personnel shall arrange a special health examination for the student.[2][4][12]

In the event that the parent/guardian objects to or refuses to obtain a regular or special health or dental examination or refuses to permit the child to be examined as arranged by the school nurse or school physician, the school nurse, in consultation with the school physician, shall determine whether the student appears to have unaddressed health conditions such that under the circumstances the refusal should be reported to the PA Department of Health or other appropriate authorities.

Where school health officials or staff have reasonable cause to suspect that a student may be the victim of child abuse, the school employee shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with law and Board policy.[13] **[14]**

**Health Monitoring**

The Board directs district staff to monitor student health in accordance with applicable Board policy and the Board-approved health and safety plan. [15]

A student may request an alternative method of monitoring as a religious accommodation, and designated district staff shall assess and respond to such request in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy. A request for an accommodation that would unreasonably impair safety or cause undue hardship will not be granted. [16]

A student with a health condition that may render a monitoring method ineffective should notify designated staff so that alternative or supplemental methods may be considered. [16] [17]

Students who may be exhibiting symptoms that indicate health concerns shall be referred to the school nurse or designated staff for further assessment and response, in accordance with Board policy. [15]

**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 concerns or disability and to promptly report such conditions to the school nurse or designated staff.[2]

**The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that educational information and materials 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 ensure that notice is provided to all parents/guardians regarding the existence of and eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). [12]

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## 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. 1405
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[8]** 28 PA Code 23.2
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[9]** 20 U.S.C. 1232h
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[10]** 24 P.S. 1419
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[11]** 28 PA Code 23.45
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[12]** 24 P.S. 1406
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[13]** 23 Pa. C.S.A. 6311
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[14]** Pol. 806 — Child Abuse
POLICY REFERENCE

**[15]** Pol. 203 — Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
POLICY REFERENCE

**[16]** Pol. 103 — Opportunity Programs for School/Classroom
POLICY REFERENCE

**[17]** Pol. 103.1 — Nondiscrimination — Qualified Students With Disabilities
POLICY REFERENCE

**[18]** 24 P.S. 1409
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[19]** Pol. 113.4 — Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
POLICY REFERENCE

**[20]** Pol. 216 — Student Records
POLICY REFERENCE

**[21]** 20 U.S.C. 1232g
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[22]** 34 CFR Part 99
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[23]** Pol. 805 — Emergency Preparedness and Response
POLICY REFERENCE

**[24]** Pol. 800 — Records Management
POLICY REFERENCE

**[25]** **28 PA Code 23.7**
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[26]** **24 P.S. 1408**
LEGAL REFERENCE

**[27]** **24 P.S. 1426**
LEGAL REFERENCE