

Existing policy with revisions based upon P.A. 18-168.

Students

Student Health Services

School District Medical Advisor

The Board of Education shall appoint a school district medical advisor and appropriate medical support service personnel including nurses.

School health efforts shall be directed toward detection and prevention of health problems and to emergency treatment, including the following student health services:

1. Appraising the health status of student and school personnel;
2. Counseling students, parents, and others concerning the findings of health examination;
3. Encouraging correction of defects;
4. Helping prevent and control disease;
5. Providing emergency care for student injury and sudden illness;
6. Maintaining school health records.

Health Records

There shall be a health record for each student enrolled in the school district which will be maintained in the school nurse's room. For the purposes of confidentiality, records will be treated in the same manner as the student's cumulative academic record.

Student health records are covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and are exempt from the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rule. However, it is recognized that obtaining medical information from health care providers will require schools to have proper authorization and to inform parents that such information once released by health care providers is no longer protected under HIPAA but is covered under FERPA.

Regular Health Assessments

Prior to enrollment in kindergarten, each child shall have a health assessment by one of the following medical personnel of the parents or guardians choosing to ascertain whether the student has any physical disability or other health problem tending to prevent him or her from receiving the full benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such school work should be modified in order to prevent injury to the student or to secure for the student a suitable program of education:

1. a legally qualified physician;
2. a physician's assistant licensed in Connecticut;
3. a school medical advisor;
4. a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at any military base.

Students

Student Health Services (continued)

Regular Health Assessments (continued)

Such health assessment shall include:

1. Physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, and blood pressure, and a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma;
2. Updating of immunizations required under C.G.S. 10-204a as periodically amended;
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screening;
4. Testing for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's Anemia, (if required by the school district medical advisor);
5. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

Health assessments shall also be required in grades 6 and in grade 10 by a legally qualified physician of each student's parents or guardians own choosing, or by the school medical advisor, or the advisor's designee, to ascertain whether a student has any physical disability or other health problem. Such health assessments shall include:

1. Physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, and blood pressure, and a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma;
2. Updating of immunizations required under C.G.S. 10-204a and the Department of Public Health, Public Health Code, 10-204a-2a, 10-204-3a and 10-204a-4;
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screening;
4. Testing for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's Anemia, (if required by the school district medical advisor);
5. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

Students

Student Health Services (continued)

Regular Health Assessments (continued)

A child will not be allowed, as the case may be, to begin or continue in district schools unless health assessments are performed as required. Students transferring into the district must provide evidence of required Connecticut vaccinations, immunizations, and health assessments at enrollment and prior to school attendance.

Health assessments will be provided by the school medical advisor or the advisor's designee without charge to all students whose parents or guardians meet the eligibility requirement of free and reduced priced meals under the National School Lunch Program or for free milk under the special milk program.

Health assessment results and recommendations signed by the examining physician or authorized medical personnel shall be recorded on forms provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education and kept on file in the school the student attends. Upon written authorization from the student's parent or guardian, original cumulative health records shall be sent to the chief administrative officer of the school district to which such student moves and a true copy of the student's cumulative health records maintained with the student's academic records. If the student moves outside of Connecticut, a true copy will be sent to that school, and the original will be kept in our district. The Superintendent of Schools, or designee, shall notify parents of any health-related problems detected in health assessments and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that further testing and treatment is provided, including advice on obtaining such required testing or treatment.

Students who are in violation of Board requirements for health assessments and immunizations will be excluded from school after appropriate parental notice and warning.

Vision Screening

All students in grades K, 1, 3, 4 and 5 will be screened using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening, by the school nurse or school health aide. Additional vision screening will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student in question. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabling conditions.

Students

Student Health Services (continued)

Hearing Screening

All students will be screened for possible hearing impairments in grades K, 1, 3, 4, 5 and grade 8. Additional audiometric screening will be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabling conditions.

Postural Screening

School nurses will screen all female students in grades 5 and 7 and male students in grades 8 or 9 for scoliosis or other postural problems. Additional postural screening will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any postural defect of problem, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabling conditions.

Student Medical Care at School

Student medical problems and emergencies are outlined in Categories I through IV in administrative regulation #5143. Schools personnel are responsible for the immediate care necessary for a student whose sickness or injury occurs on the school premises during school hours or in school-sponsored and supervised activities. Depending upon specific circumstances, Category V issues may also be considered emergencies by attending school personnel.

Schools shall maintain files of emergency information cards for each student. If a child's injury requires immediate care, the parent or guardian will be called by telephone by the nurse, the building principal, or other personnel designated by the principal, and will be advised of the student's condition. When immediate medical or dental attention is indicated, and when parents or guardians cannot be reached, the student will be transported to the nearest hospital unless otherwise indicated on the student's Emergency Information card. In this event, the family physician/dentist and school district medical advisor will be notified of school district actions.

Students

Student Health Services (continued)

Oral Health Assessments

Parents are encouraged to have oral health assessments for their child(ren) prior to public school enrollment, in grade 6 or 7, and in grade 9 or 10. Such assessment may be conducted by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, physician assistant (PA), or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), if he or she is trained in conducting such assessments as part of a DPH-approved training program. When conducted by a dentist the oral assessment must include a dental examination. If another such provider conducts the assessment, it must include a visual screening and risk assessment.

Parent/guardian consent is required prior to the oral health assessment. The assessment is to be made in the presence of the parent/guardian or another school employee. The parent/guardian must receive prior written notice and have a reasonable opportunity to opt his/her child out of the assessment, be present at the assessment, or provide for the assessment himself or herself.

A child's public school enrollment continued attendance shall not be denied for his/her failure to receive the oral health assessment.

The District may host a free oral health assessment event at which a qualified provider performs such oral health assessments. Parents/guardians will be given prior notice of such a free screening event providing the parents/guardians the opportunity to opt their children out of the assessment event. If the parent/guardian does not do so, the child must receive an assessment free of charge. The child is prohibited by the legislation from receiving any dental treatment as part of the assessment event without the parent's/guardian's informed consent.

The results of an oral health assessment shall be recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of Education. The provider performing the assessment must completely fill out and sign the form. Recommendations by the provider shall be in writing. For any child who receives an oral health assessment, the results must be included in the child's cumulative health record.

Appropriate school health personnel shall review the assessment results. If it is determined that a child needs further testing or treatment, the Superintendent shall give written notice to the child's parent/guardian and make reasonable efforts to ensure that further testing or treatment is provided. Such efforts include determining whether the parent/guardian obtained the necessary testing or treatment for the child and, if not, advising the parent or guardian on how to do so. The results of the further testing or treatment must be recorded on the assessment forms and reviewed by school health personnel.

As with other school health assessments no records of oral health assessments may be open to public inspection; and each provider who conducts an assessment for a child seeking to enroll in a public school must provide the assessment results to the school district's designated representative and a representative of the child.

Students

Student Health Services

(cf. 5142 - Student Safety)
(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse and Neglect)
(cf. 5141.5 - Suicide Prevention)
(cf. 6142.1 - Family Life and Sex Education)
(cf. 6145.2 - Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics)
(cf. 6171 - Special Education)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-203 Sanitation.

10-204a Required immunizations, as amended by PA 15-174 & PA 15-242.

10-204c Immunity from liability.

10-205 Appointment of school medical advisors.

10-206 Health assessments, as amended by PA 07-58, PA 11-179 and PA 18-168.

10-206a Free health assessments.

10-207 Duties of medical advisers.

10-208 Exemption from examination or treatment.

10-208a Physical activity of student restricted; boards to honor notice.

10-209 Records not to be public.

10-210 Notice of disease to be given parent or guardian.

10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners.

10-212a Administration of medicines by school personnel.

10-213 Dental hygienists.

10-214 Vision, audiometric and postural screening: When required; notification of parents re defects; record of results. (As amended by PA 96-229 An Act Concerning Scoliosis Screening)

Students

Student Health Services

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

10-214a Eye protective devices.

10-214b Compliance report by local or regional board of education.

10-217a Health services for children in private nonprofit schools. Payments from the state, towns in which children reside and private nonprofit schools.

Department of Public Health, Public Health Code – 10-204a-2a, 10-204a-3a and 10-204a-4.

PA 18-168 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes, Sections 7-9, 539 & 540.

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g).

42 U.S.C. 1320d-1320d-8, P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

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NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut