

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: February 25, 2025

NUMBER: 25-078

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions BP 5141.31
Immunizations; Second
Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Track 1: Operational Improvements
Initiative: Optimize Business Practices

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the second reading of the proposed revisions BP 5141.31 Immunizations.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when the law changes or specific needs occur. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board.

This is the second reading of the proposed revisions BP 5141.31 Immunizations within the Students series.

This update clarifies that under state law, personal or philosophical opposition to vaccinations is not sufficient to receive an exemption from the state's mandatory vaccination requirements for students. The only exemptions permitted are for medical or religious reasons. The update also provides that students who are considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act may be provisionally admitted to school even without a vaccination record.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes and recommends approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the second reading of the proposed revisions BP 5141.31 Immunizations as presented;
2. Do not approve the second reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5131.31 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the second reading of the proposed revisions BP 5141.31 Immunizations as presented.

BP 5141.31 IMMUNIZATIONS

Note: *Effective July 1, 2009, school children must be immunized against varicella. ~~one additional immunization will be required for school children: varicella.~~*

Prior to first entry into school, a child must be fully immunized as required by law against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, ~~and hepatitis B, and varicella.~~ Children over the age of 12 shall not be required to be immunized against rubella (4 AAC 06.055); ~~and beginning July 1, 2009 a child must be fully immunized as required by law against varicella (4 AAC 06.055).~~

Any student who does not show evidence of required immunization or who does not present a letter or affidavit from the parent/guardian or physician, physician's assistant, or advanced nurse practitioner stating reasons for exemption based on medical reasons or ~~personal religious~~ beliefs, as set forth in 4 AAC 06.055(b), shall be excluded from school until such time as the immunization is obtained or affidavit of exemption has been filed with the school. Exemptions must be renewed annually. Personal or philosophical objections to immunizations are not permitted per 4 AAC 06.055.

The Superintendent or designee shall exclude those students who fail to meet immunization requirements as required by law.

Provisional Admission

Where regular weekly medical services are not available, the Superintendent or designee may grant provisional admission to students in exceptional circumstances for up to 90 days.

Homeless students, under the definition of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, who do not have a record of required immunizations may be provisionally enrolled for up to 30 days if a parent or legal guardian attests in writing that they have received the required immunizations.

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusion)

(cf. 5112.6 Education for Homeless Children and Children in Foster Care)

Note: *Pursuant to 4 AAC 06.055 immunizations must be provided by state or federal health services if otherwise unavailable in the district or if unaffordable.*

Provisional admissions shall be reported to the Department of Health ~~and Social Services~~. The Superintendent or designee shall inform parents/guardians of available immunization services and state or federal assistance.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[14.30.065](#) Supervision

[14.30.125](#) Immunization

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

[4 AAC 06.055](#) Immunizations required

~~Revised: January 27, 2009~~

Adopted: April 28, 2004

Revised: January 27, 2009

Revised:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District