

## **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.

## **Students**

### **Student Health Services (continued)**

#### **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. an advanced practice registered nurse;
3. a registered nurse;
4. a physician's assistant.

Such health assessment shall include:

1. Physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, and blood pressure;
2. Updating of immunizations required under CGS sections 10-204 and 10-204a;
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screening;
4. If required by the school district medical advisor, testing for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia;
5. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

## **Students**

### **Student Health Services (continued)**

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;
2. Updating of immunizations required under CGS sections 10-204 and 10-204a;
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screening;
4. If required by the school district medical advisor, testing for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's Anemia.
5. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

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.

The Board of Education shall annually designate a representative to receive reports of health assessments and immunizations from health care providers.

Health assessment results and recommendations signed by the examining physician or authorized medical personnel shall be recorded 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. 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**

### **Student Health Services (continued)**

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-6 and grade 9 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 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.

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

### **Hearing Screening**

All students will be screened for possible hearing impairments in grades K-3, grade 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 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.

As necessary, special educational provisions shall be made for students with disabilities

### **Postural Screening**

School nurses, registered nurses or properly trained PE teachers will screen all students in grades 5 through 9 inclusive 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 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.

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

## **Students**

### **Student Health Services (continued)**

#### **Tuberculin Testing**

In addition to tuberculin testing required by the school district medical advisor as part of regular student health assessments, all new students, including preschool students, will be required to have at least one test for tuberculosis prior to entry in district schools.

A test for tuberculosis should also be performed if any of the following risk factors prevail:

1. birth in a high risk country of the world (to include all countries in Africa, Asia, the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Central South America, Dominican Republic, and Haiti);
2. travel to a high risk country staying at least a week with substantial contact with the indigenous population since the previously required examination;
3. extensive contact with persons who have recently come to the United States since the previously required examination;
4. contact with persons suspected to have tuberculosis, or
5. had contact with anyone who was in a homeless shelter, jail or prison, uses illegal drugs or has an HIV infection.

#### **Immunizations/Vaccinations**

No student will be allowed to enroll in any program operated as part of the district schools without adequate immunization against the following diseases:

1. Measles
2. Rubella
3. Poliomyelitis
4. Diphtheria
5. Tetanus
6. Pertussis
7. Mumps
8. Hemophilus influenza type B
9. Any other vaccine required by the schedule for active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f of the Connecticut General Statutes.
10. Hepatitis B
11. Varicella (chickenpox)

## **Students**

### **Student Health Services**

#### **Immunizations/Vaccinations** (continued)

Students shall be exempt from the appropriate provisions of this policy when:

1. they present a certificate from a physician or local health agency stating that initial immunizations have been given and additional immunizations are in process under guidelines and schedules specified by the Commissioner of Health Services; or
2. they present a certificate from a physician stating that in the opinion of such physician, immunization is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of such child; or
3. enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade on or before April 28, 2021 and whose parents/guardians had presented a religious exemption written request before April 28, 2021 will be permitted continued use of the exemption even if such child transfers to another school in Connecticut.

Any child enrolled in pre-school or pre-kindergarten on or before April 28, 2021 whose parents/guardian submitted the statement necessary for the religious exemption will have until September 1, 2022 to comply with Connecticut's required immunizations, or within fourteen days after transferring to a different public or private school program, whichever is later. The deadline for such pre-school or pre-K student to comply with the immunization requirements can be altered if the school/District is provided with a written declaration from the child's physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse recommending a different immunization schedule for the child.

4. in the case of measles, mumps or rubella, present a certificate from a physician or from the Director of Health in such child's present or previous town of residence, stating that the child has had a confirmed case of such disease; or
5. in the case of hemophilus influenza type B has passed his or her fifth birthday; or
6. in the case of pertussis has passed his or her sixth birthday except when required by law.

The school nurse will report to the local Director of Health any occurrence of State of Connecticut defined reportable communicable diseases.

## **Students**

### **Student Health Services**

#### **Health Assessments/Interscholastic Sports Programs**

Any student participating in an interscholastic sports program must have a health assessment, within 13 months prior to the first training session for the sport or sports. After the initial examination, repeat examinations are required annually. Each participant in a sport program must complete a health questionnaire before participating in each sport.

Parents are expected to use the services of their private physician. If a student is unable to obtain a health assessment from his/her personal physician for financial or other reasons, a Referral may be made to the Town Social Services Department for financial assistance. Health assessment results shall be recorded on a standard district form signed by the examining physician, school medical advisor or advisor's designee, filed in the student's health folder, and maintained up to date by the school nurse.

Coaches and physical education staff shall insure appropriate monitoring of an athlete's physical condition.

A student who is injured or becomes seriously ill while participating in interscholastic sports to the degree of requiring a doctor's attention shall not be allowed to participate in that interscholastic sport or other sports that year without written permission from his/her physician.

#### **Student Medical Care at School**

School 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.

Schools shall maintain emergency information for each student. If a child's illness or injury requires immediate care by a physician or dentist, the parent or guardian will be called by telephone by the nurse, the building principal, or other personnel designated by the principal, and 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 in the student's emergency information. In this event, the family physician/dentist and school district medical advisor will be notified of school district actions.

(cf. 5125.11 - Health/Medical Records HIPAA)

(cf. 5142 - Student Safety)

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Assessments & Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse and Neglect)

## **Students**

### **Student Health Services (continued)**

(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.  
10-204 Vaccination.  
10-204a Required immunizations. (as amended by P.A. 21-6)  
10-204c Immunity from liability  
10-205 Appointment of school medical advisors.  
10-206 Health assessments, as amended by PA 07-58.  
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. (as amended by P.A. 03-211)  
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)  
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  
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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**Policy Revised**

**GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Granby, Connecticut**