

Students

Student Health Services

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School District Medical Advisor: The Board shall appoint a school district medical advisor and appropriate medical support service personnel including nurses.

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

1. Appraising the health status of pupil and school personnel;
2. Counseling pupils, 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 maintained in the school nurse's room for each student enrolled in the school district. For the purposes of confidentiality, records will be treated in the same manner as the student's cumulative academic record.

Regular Health Assessments: Prior to enrollment in kindergarten, each child shall have a health assessment completed by a doctor selected by the student's parent or guardian.

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Such physical examination/health assessment shall include: Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screenings; hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, measurement of height and weight, blood pressure reading, risk assessment for tuberculosis and test results when done, and an updating of immunizations as required under 10-204 and 10-204a; and any other information, including a health history, as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

These health assessments shall also be required in grades 6 and in grade 10 by a legally qualified physician of each student's parent or guardian's own choosing, or by the school medical advisor or advisor's designee.

A child may not be allowed 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 the time of 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 pupils 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 on forms provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education and kept on file in the school the pupil 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 will remain 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.

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Pupils 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 screenings 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 pupil 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 handicaps.

Hearing Screening: All students will be screened for possible hearing impairments in grades K-3, grade 5, and grade 8. Additional audiometric screenings 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 pupil found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

Postural Screening: School nurses will screen all students in grades 5 through 9 for scoliosis or other postural problems. Additional postural screenings 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 pupil found to have any postural defect or problem, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease.

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Immunizations/Vaccinations: No student will be allowed to enroll in district schools without adequate immunization as per state law. Currently this includes the following:

1. Measles
2. Rubella
3. Poliomyelitis
4. Diphtheria
5. Tetanus
6. Pertussis
7. Mumps
8. Hemophilus influenza type B
9. Varicella (chicken pox)
10. Hepatitis B vaccine
11. Any other vaccine required by section 19a-7f, Connecticut General Statutes

Before entering grade seven, each student is required to show proof of immunity to varicella and shall have received a second immunization against measles.

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. they present a statement from their parents or guardians that such immunization would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child; or
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.

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

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Health Assessments/Interscholastic Sports Program: In accordance with CIAC standards, all student athletes must have on file in the health office proof of a pre-participation physical signed by the student athlete's physician. The pre-participation physical is required annually. Coaches and physical education staff shall insure appropriate monitoring of an athlete's physical condition.

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, an examination can be arranged with the school medical advisor. Health assessment results shall be recorded on forms provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education, 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.

Student Medical Care at School: School personnel are responsible for the immediate care necessary for a pupil whose sickness or injury occurs on the school premises during school hours or in school-sponsored and supervised activities.

Schools shall maintain files of emergency information cards for all pupils. 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 advised of the pupil'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. In this event, the family physician/dentist and school district medical advisor will be notified of school district actions.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-203 Sanitation.

10-204 Vaccination; 10-204a Required immunizations.; 10-204c Immunity from liability'

10-205 Appointment of school medical advisors.

10-206 Health assessments; 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 screenings: 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.

Revised: January 12, 2004