Policy Number	209
Title	Health Examinations/Screenings
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Health Examinations/Screenings

Authority

In compliance with applicable laws and regulations, ~~the School Code~~, 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 his/her individual needs and that the learning potential of each student is not lessened by a remediable physical disability.[1][2][3][4]

Guidelines

Each student is required to have a comprehensive health examination conducted by a private physician upon original entry, in sixth grade, and in eleventh grade. The school physician will conduct the physical examination if one is not provided by the parent/guardian.[2][5][4]

Each student is required to have a comprehensive dental examination conducted by the school dentist upon original entry, in third grade, and in seventh grade. The school dentist will conduct the dental examination if one is not provided by the parent/guardian.[3][5][4]

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 staff nurse shall administer to each student vision tests, hearing tests, tuberculosis tests and other tests deemed advisable ~~scoliosis screening, other tests deemed advisable, and growth screenings,~~ at intervals established by the district. ~~Height and weight measurements shall be used to calculate the student's body mass index (BMI).~~[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.

A student who presents a statement signed by the parent/guardian that a medical examination is contrary to his/her religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that the student presents a substantial menace to the health of others.[7] [8]

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 informed; and a recommendation shall be made that the parent/guardian consult a private physician or dentist. The parent/guardian shall be required to report to the school the action taken subsequent to such notification. If the parent/guardian fails to report the action taken, the school nurse or school physician shall arrange a special medical examination for the student.[2] [9] [4]

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 parent/guardian may attend or may have the examination or screening conducted privately at the parent's/guardian's expense. 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.[10] [11] [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 bethe victim of child abuse, the school employee shall make a report of suspected child abusein accordance with law and Board policy.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Health Records

The district shall maintain for each student a comprehensive health record which includes a record of immunizations and the result 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.[13] **[14]**

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.[13]

The district shall destroy student health records only after the student has not been enrolled in district schools for at least two (2) years.[13] **[15]**

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall instruct all staff members to continually observe students for conditions that indicate health problems or disability and to promptly report such conditions to the school nurse.[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.

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).[9]

Footnotes

[1] 24 P.S. 1401
palegis.us
palegis.us
Legal Reference
View source

[2] 24 P.S. 1402
palegis.us
palegis.us
Legal Reference
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[3] 24 P.S. 1403
palegis.us
palegis.us
Legal Reference
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[4] 22 PA Code 12.41
pacodeandbulletin.gov
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Legal Reference
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[5] 24 P.S. 1407
palegis.us
palegis.us
Legal Reference
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[6] 28 PA Code 23.1
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Legal Reference
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[7] 24 P.S. 1419
palegis.us
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Legal Reference
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[8] 28 PA Code 23.45
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Legal Reference
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[9] 24 P.S. 1406
palegis.us
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Legal Reference
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[10] 24 P.S. 1405
palegis.us
palegis.us
Legal Reference
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[11] 28 PA Code 23.2
pacodeandbulletin.gov
pacodeandbulletin.gov
Legal Reference
View source

[12] 20 U.S.C. 1232h
uscode.house.gov
uscode.house.gov
Legal Reference
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[13] 24 P.S. 1409
palegis.us
palegis.us
Legal Reference
View source

[14] Pol. 216
Policy Reference
Open policy

[15] Pol. 800
Policy Reference
Open policy