
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that good student health is vital to successful learning and realizes its responsibility, along with that of parent(s) or guardian(s), to protect and foster a safe and healthful environment for the students.

The school shall work closely with students' families to provide detection and preventive health services. In accordance with law, the school will provide vision, hearing, and scoliosis screening. Problems shall be referred to the parent(s) or guardian(s) who shall be encouraged to have their family physician/dentist provide appropriate care.

Schools shall also provide emergency care for students in accidental or unexpected medical situations. Parents/guardians will be notified of any emergency medical situation as soon as is practicable. Parents/guardians will receive notification of non-emergency medical situations, as appropriate, in a timely manner.

A permanent student health record shall be part of a student's cumulative school record and should follow the student from grade to grade and school to school along with his/her academic record. This record folder shall be maintained by the school nurse.

Immunizations

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the Board requires all students to be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with State statutes and rules of the New York State Department of Health.

Upon registration, all new students are required to present a record of required immunizations from a licensed physician, as set forth in Section 2164 of the Public Health Law. No child will be admitted to school or allowed to attend school without certification of the child's immunizations unless:

- a) A duly licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner will certify in writing that administering a vaccine or vaccines to a specific student will be detrimental to that student's health, specifying the duration of the exemption and a specific date for review of the determination.
- b) A physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner certifies in writing that the student has had the disease in question.
- c) A physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner provides written results of an antibody test for the disease in question which shows immunity;
- d) A student or his/her parent/guardian request an exemption from immunization based upon true and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization. This request must be in writing, notarized and submitted to the School Nurse and Superintendent of Schools.

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The Board believes that immunization is the primary responsibility of the parent/guardian. The School District will refer those students who cannot afford such immunizations to the Greene County Health Department. Except as provided above, no student shall be admitted to the School District who is not immunized at the time of admission or, if multiple doses are required, is in progress, in which case the parent/guardian must provide the next scheduled date for the immunization to the School Nurse.

In the event that a parent/guardian is unable to provide an immunization record, the School Nurse or other authorized District official, will access the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) to determine if the child has met the immunization requirements. If the system indicates that the child has received the required immunizations, the information will be entered as part of the student's record, the source and date noted, and the documentation requirement will have been met.

If the Principal determines to deny a religious exemption from immunization, the denial shall be appealable directly to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to §310 of the Education Law. A Principal's denial must be immediately issued to the parent/ guardian in writing, setting forth the specific reason(s) for the denial.

When a student transfers out of the District, the parent/guardian will be provided with an immunization transfer record showing the student's current immunization status which will be signed by the School Nurse or District's Chief Medical Officer. A transcript or photocopy of the immunization portion of the cumulative health record will be provided to the new educational institution upon request.

Communicable Diseases

It is the responsibility of the Board to provide all students with a safe and healthy school environment. To meet this responsibility, it is sometimes necessary to exclude students with contagious and infectious diseases, as defined in the Public Health Law, from attendance in school. Students will be excluded during periods of contagion for time periods indicated on a chart developed by the school nurse.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools, working through district health personnel, to enforce this policy and to contact the County Health Department immediately upon notification of a reportable case of a communicable disease or an incidence or outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease identified in the student or staff population.

The Superintendent will also ensure that parents are informed of the importance of adequate immunizations and of their responsibility under the law.

Student Medical Examinations

In accordance with Section 903 of the Education Law, each student must ~~also~~ have a physical examination within 12 months prior to the commencement of the school year in which the examination is required and present a health certificate describing the student's condition including an assessment of the student's Body Mass Index (BMI) and a determination of weight status category based upon BMI-for-age percentiles, signed by a duly licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner

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in the state of New York, upon entrance to school and upon entering the second, fourth, seventh and tenth grades. If the required health certificate is not furnished at these times, the principal shall notify the student's parent/guardian, in writing, that the District's Chief Medical Officer would perform the physical examination.

A student may be excluded from the medical examination requirements because the child's parent/guardian holds a genuine and sincere religious belief which is contrary to medical examinations. The request for exemption must be in writing and submitted to the Principal or designee.

An examination of any child may be required at any time by the School District, in its discretion, to promote the educational interests of the child.

All students participating in interscholastic sports must have a physical examination, which may be reviewed by the District's Chief Medical Officer.

Dental Health Certificates

The School District shall request that a dental health certificate be submitted for each student within 30 days after his/her entrance into school and within 30 days after entrance into the 2nd, 4th, 7th and 10th grades. The dental health certificate shall be signed by a licensed dentist and shall describe the health condition of the student when the examination was conducted, which must be within 12 months prior to the beginning of the school year in which the examination is requested. The dental health certificate, if submitted, shall be filed in the student's cumulative health record.

The School District shall submit a notice of request for dental health certificates at the same time that the notice of health examination requirements are distributed to parents/guardians, including a statement that a list of dentists to which students who need comprehensive dental examinations may be referred for treatment on a free or reduced cost basis, is available upon request at the student's school

Administering Medication to Students

Neither the Board nor district staff members shall be responsible for the diagnosis or treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication to a student during school hours shall be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student, or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available to him/her during school hours, or where it is done pursuant to law requiring accommodation to a student's special medical needs (e.g., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). "Medication" will include all medicines prescribed by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, over-the-counter medications/remedies, cough drops and herbal remedies.

Before any medication may be administered to or by any student during school hours, the Board requires:

1. The child's parent/guardian must bring the medication to school in the original labeled container.

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2. A written order from the prescribing doctor containing the following information: student's name, the date and name of the medicine, dosage and time to be administered, the purpose of the medication, the period for which medication is prescribed and the possible side effects of the medication; and
3. The written request of the parent(s) or guardian(s), which shall give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication.

Both documents shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

The following procedures shall be followed for the administration of medication:

1. All medications shall be administered by the School Nurse;
2. Medications shall be securely stored in the School Nurse's Office and kept in their original labeled container, which specifies the type of medication, the dosage to be given and the times of administration;
3. The person administering the medication should clearly label the medication bottle with the time to be given and the dosage;
4. The School Nurse shall maintain a record of the name of the student to whom medication may be administered, the prescribing physician, the dosage and timing of medication and a notation of each instance of administration; and
5. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian to bring all medications to school and to pick up all medications at the end of the school year or the end of the period of medication, whichever is earlier. If not picked up within five days of the period of medication, the medication shall be discarded.
6. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian to ensure that medicines are refilled on a timely basis and that the District is notified of any change in dosage. A new written order of the prescribing physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner must be presented for any dosage change.

Students who require emergency application of medication may have such medication, identified as described herein, stored in the office of the School Nurse. Other staff members may administer patient specific adrenaline injections (e.g., Epi-Pen) only in emergencies, after having been trained in administering such medication and after carefully reading the directions. Only the School Nurse or other registered professional nurse may carry and administer agents used in non-patient specific emergency treatment of anaphylaxis.

In accordance with Section 919 of the Education Law, the District shall make a nebulizer available on-site in school buildings where nursing services are provided. Students with a patient-specific order,

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who require inhaled medications, shall have access to the nebulizer provided that the student has their own labeled spacer or their own labeled tubing and facemask or mouthpiece to be used with the nebulizer.

No student may have any other type of medication, prescription or over-the-counter, on his/her person in school under any circumstances, except in the event that a request is received from the parent(s)/guardian and prescribing physician to permit a student to carry and self-administer his/her own medication. Such request shall be considered on an individual basis and a decision made regarding whether or not the student is “self-directed” in administering their own medication utilizing the following criteria:

1. Severity of health problems, particularly asthmatic or allergic conditions;
2. Prescribing physician’s order directing that the student be allowed to carry his/her medication and self-administer;
3. Parent statement requesting compliance with the prescriber’s order;
4. The student has been instructed in the procedure of self-administration and can assume responsibility for carrying properly labeled medication in the original container on his/her person or keeping it in school.
5. District’s Chief Medical Officer or School Nurse assessment that student is self-directed to carry and self-administer his/her medication properly;
6. Parent contact to clarify parental responsibility regarding monitoring the child on an ongoing/daily basis to insure that the child is carrying and taking the medication as ordered. This contact shall be documented.
7. The School Nurse or District’s Chief Medical Officer may revoke a student’s right to self-administer medication.

Sunscreen:

Students are permitted to carry and apply parent provided sunscreen without a prescription from a medical provider, provided that the sunscreen is FDA approved, the sunscreen is not treating a medical condition and it is not in aerosol form. Parents must provide the district with written permission for their child to carry and use sunscreen for their child’s personal use only. Students may not share their sunscreen with other students.

Field Trips and After-School Activities

Taking medication on field trips and at after-school activities is permitted if a student is self-directed in administering their own medication. On field trips or after-school activities, teachers or other school staff may carry the medication so that the self-directed student can take it at the proper time.

If a student is going on a field trip but is not self-directed (i.e., fully aware and capable of understanding the need and assuming responsibility for taking medicine), then the District may:

1. Permit the parent/guardian to attend the activity and administer the medication;
2. Permit the parent to personally request another adult who is not employed by the District to voluntarily administer the medication on the field trip or at the activity and inform the District in writing of such request;
3. Allow the student's health care provider to be consulted and, if he/she permits, order the medication time to be adjusted or the dose eliminated;
4. If no other alternative can be found, a School Nurse or a person trained in administering the medication in an appropriate case must administer the medication.

Student Return to School after Illness or Injury

Students should generally be symptom free before returning to school and resuming normal activities after an illness or injury. A student may be asked to provide a note from their doctor before they return to school or participate in the full range of school activities. The final decision to permit participation rests with the School Physician.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop comprehensive regulations governing student health services. Those regulations shall include the provision of all health services required by law, procedures for the maintenance of health records, and procedures for the administering of medication to students.

Ref: Education Law §§901 et seq.
Public Health Law §§680; 2164
8 NYCRR Part 136
SED Memo dated July 31, 2012 (*Updated Information Regarding the Use of Sunscreen*)
SED Guidance dated June 2012, (*Guidelines for Concussion Management in the School Setting*)
SED Memo dated March 2012 (*Clarification on Insulin Pumps*)
SED Memo dated August 23, 2011 (*New Policy for Stocking Albuterol Metered Dose Inhalers [MDIs]*)
SED Guidance dated August 2010 (*Clarification on Medication Storage in Schools*)
SED Guidance dated September 10, 2009 (*Administration of Medications to Students During School-Sponsored Events by Parent/Guardian Designee*)
Making the Difference: Caring for Students with Life-Threatening Allergies, New York State Department of Health, New York State Education Department, New York Statewide School Health Service Center, June 2008
SED Memo dated March 2004 (*Training of Unlicensed Individuals in the Injection of Glucagon in Emergency Situations*)

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SED Guidance dated June 2002 (*Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injector Devices in the School Setting*)

SED Memo dated April 2002 (*Guidelines for Administration of Medication in Schools*)

SED Memo dated February 27, 2001 (*New Provisions of Law Concerning the Administration of Immunizations and Anaphylactic Agents by Registered Professional Nurses Utilizing Non-Patient Specific Orders and Protocols*) and SED Memo dated October 3, 2001 (*Clarification about Administering Immunizations and Anaphylactic Agents by Registered Professional Nurses using Non-Patient Specific Orders and Protocols*)

SED EMSC School Executive's Bulletin dated January 2001 (*Blood Glucose Monitoring*)

Adoption date: July 2003

Revised/Adopted: 9/26/07

Revised/Adopted: 12/12/12

Revised/Adopted: 6/11/14