



SECTION: STUDENTS

POLICY: 203.1

TITLE: HIV INFECTION

ORIGINAL: January 14, 2002

CURRENT REVISION:

LAST REVIEWED BY THE

ADMINISTRATION: January 19, 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

A. Attendance

- a. Infected students have the same right to attend school and receive services as any other students and shall be subject to the same rules and policies.
- b. School authorities shall decide about the educational placement of infected students on a case-by-case basis. Authorities shall follow established policies and procedures for students with chronic health problems or disabilities. Authorities shall consult with the infected student's doctor and parents or guardians in a way that respects the privacy of the child and the family. Together, officials, doctors and parents should look at health concerns and agree on an educational placement to support the child with HIV and provide for any special needs. An infected student's placement shall be reassessed if there is a change in the student's condition or the student's need for accommodations.

B. Considerations for Placement

- a. Primary consideration must be given to maintaining the infected student in a regular assignment. Any decision for an alternative placement must be supported by facts and data.
- b. An infected student, who is unable to attend school, as determined by a medical examination, shall be considered for homebound instruction or an alternative placement.
- c. An infected student may be excused from school attendance if the parent or guardian seeks such excuse based on the advice of medical or psychological experts treating the infected student.

C. Confidentiality

- a. Students are not required to disclose HIV infection status to anyone in the education system. HIV anti-body testing is not required for any purpose.
- b. The Superintendent, after agreeing on an Educational Plan with the infected student's parents, shall determine which school personnel will receive information about an Infected Student. The number of individuals informed of an infected student's status shall be kept to the minimum required to assure proper care and supervision of the student as well as to protect the school population. Anonymity shall have high priority.

- c. All district employees have a duty to preserve the confidentiality of all information concerning an infected student.
- d. Information about infected students in the school setting shall not be disclosed to the general public, undesignated school employees, or other groups without a court order or the informed, written, signed and dated consent of the infected student or his/her parent or guardian if a legal minor.
- e. All health records, notes and other documents that reference a person's HIV status will be kept under lock and key. Access to these confidential records is limited to those named in written permission from the person (or parent or guardian) and to emergency medical personnel. Information regarding HIV status will not be added to a student's permanent education or health record without written consent.

D. Universal Precautions

- a. Universal precautions, as recommended by the United States Public Health Services Center for Disease Control, shall be followed for exposure to bodily fluids containing blood-borne pathogens.
- b. Employees shall treat all body fluids as hazardous and follow universal precautions.
- c. The School District shall maintain and keep reasonably accessible all equipment and supplies necessary for implementing the universal precautions.

E. Staff Development

- a. All district employees shall participate in a planned HIV education program that:
 - i. Conveys factual and current information.
 - ii. Provides guidance on universal precautions.
 - iii. Informs about current law and district policies concerning HIV.
 - iv. Assists staff to maintain productive parent and community relations.
 - v. Includes annual review sessions.
- b. Designated district employees shall receive additional, specialized training appropriate to their positions and responsibilities.

F. Prevention Education

- a. Education on HIV/Aids should be directed at establishing a basic understanding of the disease, ensuring that adequate safety precautions are taken, reducing unwarranted fears about the transmission of HIV and encouraging the curtailment of behavior that contributes to the spread of the virus. The educational program shall:
 - i. Be taught at every level, primary through grade twelve.
 - ii. Use materials demonstrated by sound research to be effective.
 - iii. Be consistent with community standards.
 - iv. Follow content guidelines prepared by the Centers for Disease Control.
 - v. Be appropriate to students' developmental levels, behaviors and cultural backgrounds.
 - vi. Build knowledge and skills from year to year.
 - vii. Stress the benefits of abstinence from sexual activity, alcohol and other drug use.
 - viii. Include accurate information on reducing risk of HIV infection.
 - ix. Address students' own concerns.
 - x. Include means for evaluation.
 - xi. Be an integral part of a coordinated school health program.

- xii. Be taught by well-prepared instructors with adequate support.
 - xiii. Involve parents and families as partners in education.
- b. Parents and guardians shall be provided convenient opportunities to preview all HIV prevention curricula and materials.