



**SECTION: STUDENTS**

**POLICY: 203.1**

**TITLE: HIV INFECTION**

**ORIGINAL: January 14, 2002**

**CURRENT REVISION: April 5, 2021**

**LAST REVIEWED BY THE  
COMMITTEE:**

**I. PURPOSE**

- A. The Board of School Directors is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for its students, their families, and employees. The purpose of this policy shall be to safeguard the health and well-being of students, their families, employees, and the general public while protecting the rights of the individual.
- B. This policy is based on evidence that the risk of transmitting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is extremely low in school settings when current guidelines are followed. The presence of a person living with HIV infection or diagnosed with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) poses no significant risk to others in school, day care, or school athletic settings.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. **HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)** - A virus transmitted from person to person through blood-to-blood and/or sexual contact. Those bodily fluids that can transmit the virus include blood, semen, vaginal fluids and breast milk, or other bodily fluids containing blood.
- B. **AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)** – the condition resulting from infection with HIV.
- C. **Infected Students** - refers to students diagnosed as having the HIV virus, including those who are asymptomatic.
- D. **Universal Guidelines** - Guidelines published by the United States Public Health Services Center for Disease Control for the prevention of HIV, Hepatitis B Virus, and other blood-borne pathogens.

**III. POLICY**

- A. This policy shall apply to all students in all programs conducted, sponsored, or accepted by the School District.
- B. The Board of School Directors directs that the established school rules that relate to attendance, illnesses, and other diseases among students shall also apply to Infected Students.
- C. Attendance
  - a. Infected students have the same right to attend school and receive services as other students and shall be subject to the same policies and administrative guidelines. HIV

Infection shall not factor into decisions concerning educational programs, privileges or participation in any school-sponsored activity.

- b. First consideration must be given to maintaining the infected student in a regular assignment. Any decision for an alternative placement must be supported by specific facts and data.

D. Confidentiality

- a. District employees who have knowledge of an infected student's condition shall not disclose any information without prior written consent of the student's parents/guardians, consistent with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act.
- b. All health records, notes and other documents referring to an infected student's condition shall be secured and kept confidential.
- c. ]The Board of School Directors shall not require routine screening tests for HIV infection in the school setting, nor will such tests be a condition for school attendance.

E. Infection Control

- a. Employees, students, parents and visitors are required consistently to follow universal precautions in all settings and at all times, including playgrounds and school buses. Equipment and supplies needed to apply the infection control guidelines will be maintained and kept reasonably accessible. Employees shall notify the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee of all incidents of exposure to bodily fluids and when an Infected Student's health condition or behavior presents a reasonable risk of transmitting an infection.
- b. The school district shall maintain reasonably accessible equipment and supplies necessary for infection control.

**IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

- A. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible as the central contact for handling and releasing all information concerning Infected Students.
- B. All district employees shall maintain a respectful school climate and prohibit physical or verbal harassment of Infected Students.
- C. On an annual basis, building administrators shall notify students, parents and district employees about current Board of School Directors policies concerning HIV infection and shall provide reasonable opportunities to discuss such policies and concerns.
- D. The Superintendent or designee shall report periodically to the Board of School Directors regarding the effectiveness of this policy and shall make recommendations for revision in accordance with developments in medical research and treatments.
- E. The Superintendent or designee shall develop guidelines to implement this policy.

**V. REFERENCES**

35 P.S. 7603  
24 P.S. 1327  
35 P.S. 7607  
24 P.S. 1329  
22 PA Code 11.25

24 P.S. 1330  
24 P.S. 1409  
22 PA Code 4.29  
22 PA Code 4.4  
24 P.S. 1301  
35 P.S. 7601 et seq  
Pol. 203  
Pol. 204  
Pol. 103  
Pol. 103.1  
Pol. 117