



**SECTION: STUDENTS**

**POLICY: 209**

**TITLE: HEALTH  
EXAMINATIONS/SCREENINGS**

**ORIGINAL:** December 8, 2003  
**CURRENT REVISION:** April 5, 2021  
**LAST REVIEWED BY THE  
COMMITTEE:**

**I. PURPOSE**

- A. In compliance with applicable law and regulations, and Board-approved health and safety plan, the Board shall require that District students submit to health and dental examinations, screenings, and health monitoring in order:
- a. To protect the school community from the spread of communicable disease;
  - b. To ensure that the student's participation in health, safety and physical education meets their individual needs; and
  - c. To ensure that the learning potential of each student is not lessened by a remediable physical disability.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

None.

**III. POLICY**

- A. Medical and Dental Examinations
- a. Each student shall receive a comprehensive health examination upon original entry, in sixth grade, and in eleventh grade, conducted by the school physician.
  - b. Each student shall receive a comprehensive dental examination upon original entry, in third grade, and in seventh grade, conducted by the school dentist.
  - c. The comprehensive health examination and comprehensive dental examination may be privately conducted by the family physician or family dentist, as appropriate, and reported to the District on forms supplied by the school. Parents/guardians are urged to have students privately examined by their family physicians and dentists to provide for continuity in the medical care of the students. Payment for these private examinations shall be the responsibility of the parent. The District will only perform the required medical and dental examinations for a student if the student's parents/guardians do not produce the reports of such examinations on the forms provided.
  - d. The District will 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.
  - e. Each student shall receive, from the school nurse or medical technician, vision tests, hearing tests, height and weight measurements, and other tests deemed advisable, at intervals established by the District. Height and weight measurements shall be used to calculate the student's weight-for-height ratio.

- f. A student who presents a statement signed by the parent or guardian that a health examination is contrary to the student's or parent's/guardian's religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that facts exist indicating that certain conditions would present an substantial menace to the health of others in contact with the student if the student were not examined for those conditions.
  - g. 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 or guardian shall be notified of the apparent need for a special examination by the student's private physician or dentist. The parent shall be required to report to the school the action taken subsequent to such notification. If the parent/guardian fails to report whether the examination occurred within a reasonable time after being notified of the apparent need and the abnormal condition persists, appropriate school health personnel shall arrange a special health examination for the student. In the event that the parent/guardian objects or refuses to obtain a regular or special health or dental examination or refuses to permit the student to be examined as arranged by the school nurse or 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 Pennsylvania Department of Health or other appropriate authorities.
  - h. Where school health officials or staff have reasonable cause to suspect that a student may be the victim of child abuse, the school employee shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.
- B. Health Monitoring
- a. The Board directs district staff to monitor student health in accordance with applicable Board policy and the Board-approved health and safety plan.
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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.
  - d. 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.
- C. Health Records
- a. The district shall maintain for each student a comprehensive health record which includes a record of immunizations and the results of tests, measurements, regularly scheduled examinations and special examinations.
  - b. 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.
  - c. The district may disclose information from health records to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

- d. 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.
- e. The district shall destroy student health records only after the student has not been enrolled in district schools for at least two (2) years.

**IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

- A. The Superintendent or their designee shall develop guidelines to implement this policy and ensure the District's compliance with applicable law.
- B. The Superintendent or their designee shall instruct all staff members to continually observe students for conditions that indicate health concerns or disability and to promptly report such conditions to the school nurse or designated staff.
- C. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that notice is provided to all parents/guardian regarding the existence of and eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program.

**V. REFERENCES**

22 PA Code 12.41  
24 P.S. 1401  
24 P.S. 1402  
24 P.S. 1403  
24 P.S. 1407  
28 PA Code 23.1 et seq  
20 U.S.C. 1232h  
24 P.S. 1405  
28 PA Code 23.2  
24 P.S. 1419  
28 PA Code 23.45  
24 P.S. 1406  
23 Pa. C.S.A. 6311  
Pol. 806  
24 P.S. 1409  
Pol. 216  
20 U.S.C. 1232g  
34 CFR Part 99  
24 P.S. 1401-1419  
22 PA Code 403.1  
23 Pa. C.S.A. 6301 et seq