

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes the seriousness of head trauma of any sort, in and out of school, and the potentially progressive nature of an impact to the head especially during the first week following injury where re-injury can result in more severe injury and long term disability.

The Board further recognizes the evolving research that has demonstrated the importance to provide all students with any degree of concussion appropriate safeguards and educational accommodations during the healing phase of their recovery.

The Board finally recognizes that well-informed parents, athletes, and staff are the greatest prevention measures to avoid those instances of preventable head injury and to minimize risks with unavoidable injury through early recognition and management. Therefore, the District adopts the following policy to support the proper evaluation and management of head injuries.

- The physical education teachers, athletic trainers, coaches, nurses and other appropriate staff will receive training to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. Any student exhibiting those signs, symptoms or behaviors while participating in a school sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic athletic activity shall be removed from the game or activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional.
- The physical education teachers, athletic trainers, coaches, nurses and other appropriate staff will notify the student's parents or guardians and recommend appropriate monitoring to parents or guardians. If a student sustains a concussion at a time other than when engaged in a school-sponsored activity, the district expects the parent/legal guardian to report the condition to physical education teachers, athletic trainers, coaches, nurses and other appropriate staff so that the district can support the appropriate management of the condition.
- Assuring appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place within a reasonable degree of medical certainty as a student is healing which may include testing accommodations not previously specified, homework and project extensions, incomplete grades without typical penalties, and other short term academic accommodations up to four weeks that will not last long enough to warrant an IEP or 504 Plan.
- Implementing in its concussion management protocol standardized measures of assessment of injured students and adherence to a return to mental and physical exertion on a progressive program consistent with guidelines from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and in accordance with any laws governing the State of New York
- The school's chief medical officer will make the final decision on return to activity including physical education class and after-school sports.
- Any student who continues to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from play and reevaluated by their health care provider.

- Maintaining a concussion management team in the district as selected by the superintendent (or designate) to include key personnel in academics, administration, physical education, athletics, and health services to oversee and implement concussion management protocols at each building level.
- The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the chief school medical officer, will develop regulations and protocols to guide the return to activity.

Cross-ref: *Student Wellness Policy (5405)*

Ref: 8 NYCRR § 135.4 (Physical Education); Part 136 (school health services program)
NYSSBA Sample Policy 5420; Concussion Management Guidelines and Procedures,
www.nysphsaa.org

Note: Adopted on February 26, 2015 pursuant to Resolution No. 2014-15: 509 as Policy No. 5460; Technical Amendment to change the policy number only adopted on September 22, 2016 pursuant to Resolution No. 2016-17: 231

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