

## STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that student health is vital to successful learning and achievement. The District, parent(s) and guardian(s) are responsible for fostering a safe and healthful environment for students.

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

### **Health Screening Required for Enrollment in School**

The following documents are required to enroll a student in school:

1. A health certificate documenting that the student has had a physical examination in conformance with state requirements. The health certificate must be submitted within 30 calendar days after a student enters school, and upon their entry into PreKindergarten, or Kindergarten and first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh grades.

The physical examination must be conducted no more than 12 months before the first day of the school year in question. School staff will offer to assist parents who are struggling with obtaining a physical examination for their child, or with obtaining or completing the paperwork necessary to provide a health certificate to the District. If a student is unable to furnish the health certificate, the school will provide a physical examination upon receiving consent from the student's parent or guardian.

A request for an exemption from the physical examination or from the requirement to provide a health certificate must be made in writing to the school principal (or their designee). The only basis for an exemption is a claim that the physical examination is in conflict with the parent or guardian's genuine and sincere religious belief, and documents supporting the request for an exemption may be required.

2. Documentation that the student has received immunizations against certain communicable diseases, as set forth in state law and regulations. An exemption to the immunization requirement may be granted for medical or religious reasons, as permitted by state law and regulation.
3. A dental health certificate is *requested* for the student on the same time schedule as the health certificate, but is not required for enrollment.
4. Children in temporary housing who are covered under the McKinney-Vento Act will be admitted to school, even if the required health or immunization records are not available. However, any student may be temporarily excluded from admission to school if actual

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symptoms of a communicable disease are present that would present a significant risk of transmission to others (please refer to the section below on Communicable Diseases).

The District Liaison for Children in Temporary Housing will assist students covered under the McKinney-Vento Act in accessing health services described in this policy and the accompanying regulation.

The Board recognizes that the State of New York may authorize and require the collection of data from health certificates to monitor and understand health care issues affecting children. The Board supports these efforts and expects administrators to cooperate and to observe the appropriate laws and regulations in carrying out those responsibilities, including those that relate to student privacy.

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. Student health records shall be maintained by the school nurse.

### **Communicable Diseases**

To protect students and ensure a safe and healthy environment for all, students with contagious and infectious diseases may be excluded from attending school, as outlined in the Public Health Law. If ordered by the NYS Commissioner of Health (or designee) during an outbreak of these communicable diseases, the District will exclude students from school who have an exemption from immunization or who are in the process of obtaining immunization.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools, working through district health personnel, to enforce this policy and to contact the county or local health department when a reportable case of a communicable disease is identified in the student or staff population.

### **Administering Medication to or by 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 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
- Required to accommodate a student's special medical needs, as outlined by law (e.g., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

“Medication” includes all medicines prescribed by a physician.

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

1. A written request from the parent(s) or guardian(s), which gives permission to administer the medication to the student, or allows the student to carry and self-administer the medication (i.e. albuterol inhaler or epinephrine auto injector); and
2. A written order from the prescribing physician that includes:
  - a. the purpose of the medication;
  - b. dosage;
  - c. the time or the special circumstances for administering the medication;
  - d. the period for which medication is prescribed;
  - e. possible side effects of the medication; and
  - f. the student's ability to self-administer the medication (albuterol inhaler or epinephrine auto injector), as applicable.

Permission slips and medical orders shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

### **Students with Serious and/or Life-Threatening Medical Conditions**

(Previously Policy 5420)

The Board of Education recognizes the need to provide all students with appropriate educational programs in the least restrictive setting and with reasonably adequate accommodations of their medical needs, including those with significant or even life-threatening medical conditions. This policy encompasses any physician-documented serious and/or life threatening medical condition such as life-threatening food, latex, or insect sting allergies; acute medical conditions, such as substance overdose; or chronic serious diseases or medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, diabetes, seizures or severe asthma.

Parents/guardians will be notified of any emergency medical situation as soon as possible. Parents/guardians will be notified of non-emergency medical situations that have been reported to the school nurse in a timely manner.

The Rochester City School District will adhere to all state and federal laws governing the rights of students with special medical needs and will take reasonable measures to work with the health care provider and the family regarding the health and safety of all students, including children with significant or life-threatening conditions. This may include, but is not limited to:

- a. providing necessary precautions and general training for staff in transportation, classrooms, the cafeteria or the gymnasium;
- b. providing initial and periodic update training by individuals with significant nursing or medical knowledge, for all adults in a supervisory role in the recognition and emergency management of a specific medical condition for specific students;

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- c. creating Individual Health Care Plans (IHP), Emergency Care Plans (ECP), 504 Plans, or Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) as indicated for a specific student to adjust, accommodate or modify programming to meet essential medical needs;
- d. having standing emergency medical protocols, or non-patient specific medical orders, for nursing staff or other staff so designated by the administration and allowed under federal and NYS laws and Commissioner regulations;
- e. maintaining stock supplies of life-saving emergency medications and/or devices in all health offices as allowed by the laws of NYS, such as epinephrine auto-injectors, naloxone, or albuterol/nebulizers, particularly for use in first-time emergencies;
- f. following specific physician-generated medical-legal documents duly executed in accordance with the laws of NYS, with specific medical orders regarding the care of specific students with severe life-threatening conditions;
- g. allowing students as assessed by the school nurse and principal to carry life-saving medication with prior approval by the principal and according to District health practice and procedures, as long as duplicate life-saving medication is also maintained in the health office in the event the self-carrying student misplaces their medicine(s); and
- h. providing appropriate and reasonable building accommodations and supports within a reasonable degree of medical certainty.

The Superintendent shall develop comprehensive regulations governing student health services, including the provision of all health services required by law, procedures for maintaining health records, procedures for administering medication to students, and staff training necessary to ensure the health and safety of students. In consultation with District medical staff, the Superintendent shall also develop protocols for management of injury, particularly head injury and possible concussion.

Ref: *Education Law Article 19, Sections 901, 902a, 902b, 906, 916a, 916b, 917, 919, 921, and 922*  
*Commissioner's Regulations Sections 136.4, 136.6, 136.7, and 136.8*  
*Public Health Law Section 3309*  
Education Law §§310 (provisions for appeal of child denied school entrance for failure to comply with immunization requirements); 901 et seq. (medical, dental and health services, BMI reporting); 919 (provide and maintain nebulizers); 6909 (emergency treatment of anaphylaxis)  
Public Health Law §§613 (annual survey); 2164 (immunization requirements)  
8 NYCRR § 64.7 (administration of agents to treat anaphylaxis); § 135.4 (Physical Education); Part 136 (school health services program)  
10 NYCRR Part 66-1 (immunization requirements)  
*Administration of Medication in the School Setting Guidelines*, State Education Department, revised April 2002  
*Immunization Guidelines: Vaccine Preventable Communicable Disease Control*, State Education Department, revised August 2000

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*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

*Concussion Management Guidelines and Procedures*, [www.nysphsaa.org](http://www.nysphsaa.org)

*New Policy for Stocking Albuterol Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs)*, State Education Department, August 2011:

[www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/schoolhealth/schoolhealthservices/Albuterol2011memo.pdf](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/schoolhealth/schoolhealthservices/Albuterol2011memo.pdf).

Cross-ref: *Wellness Policy* (5405)  
*Concussion Management Policy* (5430)  
*Student Individualized Education Plans: Development and Provision* (4209)  
*Implementation of Individualized Education Plans (IEP)* (4210)  
*Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973* (4218)  
*Student Records and Privacy Policy* (5500)  
*Health and Safety Policy* (8100)  
*Children & Families in Transition under the McKinney-Vento Act* (5110)

Adopted April 28, 2016 pursuant to Resolution No. 2015-16: 695; Amended September 25, 2018 pursuant to Resolution No. 2018-19: 310 (Policy renamed from *Students with Serious and/or Life-Threatening Medical Conditions* to *Student Health Services*).