

Health

Immunization, Health, Eye and Dental Examinations

Required Health Examinations and Immunizations

All students are required to present appropriate proof of a health examination and the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases within one year prior to:

- Entering kindergarten or the first grade;
- Entering the sixth and ninth grades; and
- Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade.

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grades 6 and 12. A diabetes screening must be included as part of the health exam (though diabetes testing is not required). Students between the age of one and seven must provide a statement from a physician assuring that the student was "risk-assessed" or screened for lead poisoning.

Failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the school, subject to certain exceptions. New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization requirements. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by October 15, the student must present, by October 15, an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by an appropriate medical professional.

Eye Examination

All students entering kindergarten or the school for the first time must present proof by October 15 of the current school year of an eye examination performed within one year. Failure to present proof by October 15, allows the school to hold the student's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.

Dental Examination

All students entering kindergarten, second and sixth grades must present proof by May 15 of the current school year of having been examined by a licensed dentist within the last 18 months. Failure to present proof allows the school to hold the child's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15.

Exemptions

A student will be exempted from the above requirements for:

- Medical grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a signed statement explaining the objection;
- Religious grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption;
- Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification;
- Eye examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
- Dental examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

Care of Students with Diabetes

If your child has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the building principal. Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

- Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their child.
- Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
- Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
- Grant consent for and authorize designated School District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.

For further information, please contact the building principal.

Communicable Diseases

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

- Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has a communicable disease.
- In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent or guardian.
- The school will provide written instructions to the parent and guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease.
- A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings to the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that your child stay home when the following conditions occur:

- **Fever** - Temperature of one hundred (100) degrees F or above. Children are required to stay home for at least twenty-four (24) hours after the fever has gone down.
- **Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea** - All body fluids are considered contagious. Children are required to stay home at least twenty-four (24) hours after the last episode.
- **Pink Eye** - This may be viral or bacterial. Any child with symptoms such as swelling, redness, itching, or drainage should be seen by a physician. Antibiotics must be administered at least twenty-four (24) hours before returning to school.
- **Rash** - A rash is assumed contagious and must be diagnosed by a doctor. A doctor's note should accompany the child when returning to school that identifies the rash.
- **Antibiotic administration** - Any child that has been diagnosed with a communicable disease that requires an antibiotic is required to stay home until he/she has taken the antibiotic for at least 24 hours.

Concussion Protocol

Per Public Act 99-245 and School Board policy 7:305

Hazardous & Infectious Materials

Per school board policy 4:160, the Superintendent shall take all reasonable measures to protect the safety of district personnel, students, and visitors on district premises from risks associated with hazardous materials, including pesticides and infectious materials.

Head Lice

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice.

- Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
- Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian.
- The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.
- A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings the student to school to be checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free of the head lice and eggs (nits). Infested children are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice.

Student Medication

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a "Student Medical School Medication Authorization Form."

No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed School Medication Authorization Form is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student is allowed to possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this procedure.

Self-Administration of Medication

A student may possess an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler prescribed for immediate use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed an Authorization for Student Self-Medication Form a School Medication Authorization Form. The school and district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication or epinephrine auto-injector or the storage of any medication by school personnel. A student's parent/guardian must agree to indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector and/or asthma inhaler, or the storage of any medication by school personnel.

Physical Examinations

Physical examinations are required upon entrance into pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or first grade and at the sixth grade level. Children will not be allowed to attend classes until they have complied with the physical examination law.

All preschool and fifth graders are also required to receive the Hepatitis B Vaccine before the first day of school. The Hepatitis B Vaccine is given in 3 doses over a period of 6 months, so it is very important to begin the series right away. Student's who do not receive or do not begin to receive the series before the start of school, will be excluded until the series is started. If you have any questions you may contact the school nurse.

P.E. Excuse

With a note from a parent, a student will be excused from P.E. for one (1) day. On the second day, a doctor's excuse is required or the student will be asked to participate. If a doctor's excuse is not received, and the student does not participate, it will be regarded as a failure to dress for P.E.

Sports Physicals

Any student participating in a sport must receive a sports physical from a doctor. Sports physicals must be turned in before a student is allowed to try-out for a sport. Forms may be obtained from the student's coach or the school nurse. Sports physicals must be renewed annually.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

Our qualified school nurses provide vision and hearing screening. Vision screening is done annually for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, second and eighth grades, special education, and new transfer students. Hearing screening is done annually for all pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students, special education and new transfer students. Students are also screened upon teacher referral. Students with previous hearing loss will be monitored annually at all grade levels.

Per the State of Illinois School Code, effective January 1, 2008, an eye examination must be included in addition to the health examination required within one year prior to entering kindergarten or the first grade, whichever grade the child first enters, of any public, private, or parochial elementary school.

Students with Food Allergies

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules.

If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the building principal at (000) 000-0000.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed supports so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.

Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means.