

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that good student health is vital to successful learning and acknowledges its responsibility, along with that of parent(s) or guardian(s), to protect and foster a safe and healthful environment for students.

The school shall work closely with students' families to provide detection and preventive health services. In accordance with law, the school will provide vision, hearing and scoliosis screening. Results shall be provided to the parent(s) or guardian(s) who shall be encouraged to seek appropriate medical care.

Upon entering pre-k, kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and eleventh grades a student must have a health exam by a New York State licensed health care provider and submit a health certificate within 30 days of entering school. The examination, which must conform to state requirements, must have been conducted no more than 12 months before the first day of the school year in question. If a student is unable to furnish the health certificate, the school will provide a physical examination by a licensed provider. A request for exemption from the physical examination, or the requirement to provide a health certificate, must be made in writing to the school principal or designee, who may require documents supporting the request. The only basis for exemption is a claim that the physical examination is in conflict with the parent or guardian's genuine and sincere religious belief.

In order to maintain enrollment in school, students must furnish documentation of required immunizations against certain communicable diseases, as set forth in state law and regulations, unless exempted from immunizations for medical or religious reasons as permitted by state law and regulation.

Homeless students shall be admitted to school even if they do not have the required health or immunization records, but may be temporarily excluded if they show actual symptoms of a communicable disease that poses a significant risk of transmission to others.

The State of New York may authorize and require the collection of data from health certificates in furtherance of tracking and understanding health care issues that affect children.

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. The health record shall be maintained by the school nurse.

Schools shall respond to students in accidental or unexpected medical situations. Each school in the district will include in its emergency plan a protocol for responding to health care emergencies, including anaphylaxis (see *Policy 5420.3 Food Induced Anaphylaxis*), and head injury (see *Policy 5600 Concussion Management.*) Parents/guardians will be notified of any emergency medical situation as soon as is practicable. In addition, parents/guardians will receive notification of non-emergent medical situations that have been reported to the nurse in a timely manner.

Communicable Diseases

It is the responsibility of the Board to provide all students with a safe and healthy school environment. To meet this responsibility, it is sometimes necessary to exclude students with contagious and infectious diseases from attendance in school.

During an outbreak of these communicable diseases, if the New York State Commissioner of Health or his/her designee so orders, 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 or his/her designee, 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 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 during school hours 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 where it is done pursuant to law requiring accommodation to a student's special medical needs (e.g., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

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

1. the written request of the parent(s) or guardian(s), which shall give permission for such administration, and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication; and
2. the written order of the prescribing authorized medical provider, which will include the purpose of the medication, the dosage, the time at which or the special circumstances under which medication shall be administered, the period for which medication is prescribed; and

3. that in order for a student to carry and use a rescue inhaler, an epinephrine auto-injector, insulin, or glucagon and associated testing supplies, written permission must be provided both by the parent and the prescribing authorized medical provider in accordance with New York State law and regulation.

Students are allowed to carry and apply parentally provided sunscreen without a prescription from an authorized medical provider, assuming that the sunscreen is FDA approved and that the sunscreen is not treating a medical condition. Parents need to provide the district with written permission for students to use sunscreen.

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

The District shall make a nebulizer available on site in school buildings where nursing services are provided. Students with a patient specific order shall have access to the nebulizer. The District will ensure that it is maintained in working order. Students are required to supply their own medication and administration sets.

Training

Training to support the fulfillment of staff responsibilities in regard to student health services will be provided as part of the District's ongoing professional development plan and in conformity with the Commissioner's Regulations.

Regulations

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall develop comprehensive regulations governing student health services. Those regulations shall include the provision of all health services required by law, procedures for the maintenance of health records, and procedures for the administering of medication to students. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall also develop protocols, in consultation with the District Physician and other appropriate District staff, for the management of injury, with particular attention to concussion.

Great Neck Public Schools
Adopted: 6/15/15; 1/11/18