

**RESCIND BOARD REPORT 94-1026-PO1 POLICY ON HEALTH EXAMINATIONS AND
IMMUNIZATIONS AND ADOPT A NEW POLICY ON STUDENT HEALTH EXAMINATIONS,
IMMUNIZATIONS AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board rescind Board Report 94-1026-PO1, "Policy on Health Examinations and Immunizations" and adopt a new policy on Student Health Examinations, Immunizations and Dental Examinations.

POLICY TEXT:

I. Immunization and Health Examination Requirements

The requirements set forth in this section are applicable, unless otherwise noted, to the following students: new enrollees irrespective of grade, preschool students, kindergarten students, fifth graders and ninth graders.

A. Requirements

1. General Requirements. Students entering kindergarten (or first grade if the student did not attend a Chicago Public School kindergarten), as well as students entering fifth and ninth grades must submit the following: (i) proof of a health examination, and (ii) proof of the required immunizations prescribed by the Illinois Department of Public Health as required under Section 27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code. Proof must be provided to the school by October 15th (or the first day of enrollment if the student is enrolling after October 15th) by submitting a completed State of Illinois Certificate of Child Health Examination dated not more than one year prior to the start of the school year ("Certificate").

2. Requirements for Transfer Students and Other New Students. A Certificate establishing proof of a health examination and the required immunizations shall also be required for any new student entering a Chicago Public School for the first time, including preschoolers and transfer students irrespective of grade, upon entrance. Transfer students from within the State of Illinois shall be enrolled provided they have a completed Certificate as required by Illinois Department of Public Health. For transfer students from another state or from another country, a health form comparable to the Certificate may be accepted for purposes of enrollment, provided the transfer student is enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school. Homeless students who lack documentation regarding immunizations or health examinations shall be immediately enrolled in accordance with the Board's Policy on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

B. Exclusion for Failure to Meet Requirements

Students who fail to submit proof of the required immunizations or health examination by October 15th (or the first day of enrollment if the student is enrolling after October 15th), shall be barred from attending school. A student who does not have proper proof of a health examination or immunizations will receive a "Notice of Exclusion From School" signed by the principal excluding the student. The student will then remain out of school until such time as the student provides proof of having had a health examination and the medically appropriate immunizations as required. During the child's exclusion from school for non-compliance, the child's parents or legal guardian shall be considered in violation of compulsory attendance requirements set out in Section 26-1 et seq. of the Illinois School Code.

C. Waivers

Students whose parents or legal guardians object on religious grounds to health examinations or to immunizations shall not be required to submit to health examinations or immunizations if the parent or legal guardian submits to the school a written and signed waiver request which contains the following: (1) a statement of objection and (2) details of the grounds for objection. A waiver request to exempt the student may also be submitted by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches stating in writing that the physical condition of the student is such that any one or more of the immunizing agents is medically contraindicated. The examining physician responsible for the performance of the health examination shall endorse such fact upon the health examination form.

D. Exceptions

If for medical reasons one or more of the required immunizations must be given after October 15th (or the first day of enrollment if the student is enrolling after October 15th), the student will be allowed to enter school if the physician/clinic has provided the school with the schedule of dates for the administration of immunizations and a statement of the medical reason causing the delay. Such schedule and statement must be issued by the physician, advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, registered nurse or local health department that will be responsible for administration of the remaining required immunizations. A student who is scheduled to receive further immunizations but fails to comply with said schedule will receive a "Notice of Exclusion From School" signed by the principal excluding the student, and the student will remain out of school until proof of compliance with immunization requirements is presented. During the child's exclusion from school for non-compliance, the child's parents or legal guardian shall be considered in violation of compulsory attendance requirements set out in Section 26-1 et seq. of the Illinois School Code.

II. Dental Examination Requirements

A. Requirements

Starting in the 2005-2006 school year, students in kindergarten, second grade and sixth grade will be required to submit proof of a dental examination to their school by May 15th. Such examination must have taken place within 18 months prior to May 15th and must be recorded and evidenced by means of a State of Illinois Dental Examination Form, signed and dated by a licensed dentist, as required by Illinois Department of Public Health rules. Notice of the dental examination requirements will be sent to parents or legal guardians of students annually at least 60 days before May 15th. All student dental examination requirements will be administered in accordance with Illinois Department of Public Health rules.

If a student in the second or sixth grade fails to present proof of a dental examination by May 15th, the principal may, at his or her discretion, withhold the student's report card until the school receives either (1) proof of a completed dental examination for the student, (2) proof that an examination is scheduled to take place within 60 days, or (3) an appropriately executed Dental Examination Waiver Form or waiver request (see paragraph II.B. below). Information generally provided to parents or guardians regarding their student's academic or promotion status will not be withheld due to a failure to comply with the dental examination requirements.

B. Waivers

Students whose parents or legal guardians object on religious grounds to dental examinations or any part thereof shall not be required to submit to a dental examination if the parent or legal guardian submits to the school a written and signed waiver request which contains the following: (1) a statement of objection, and (2) details of the grounds for the objection. Waivers for students whose parent or legal guardian show an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist shall also be available in accordance with to Illinois Department of Public Health rules.


LEGAL REFERENCES: 105 ILCS 5/27-8.1; 105 ILCS 5/26-1 et. seq.

Reviewed for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel