

August 27, 2008

AMEND BOARD REPORT 05-0928-PO2
POLICY ON HEALTH EXAMINATIONS, IMMUNIZATIONS, AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS
AND EYE EXAMINATIONS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board amend Board Report 05-0928-PO2, Policy on Student Health Examinations, Immunizations and Dental Examinations.

HISTORY OF BOARD ACTION: On September 28, 2005 the Board's policy on Student Health Examinations, Immunizations and Dental Examinations was adopted to comply with legal requirements set out in Section 27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code. On August 24, 2007, Public Act 95-0422 became law, and changed 27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code by modifying the mandated grade level to provide evidence of a health exam from 5th grade to 6th grade. In September 2007, the Illinois State Board of Education issued guidance to suspend compliance requirements for 6th graders for the 2007-08 school year. As a result, the Board adopted Resolution 07-0926-RS1 on September 26, 2007 to suspend health examination and immunization requirements for 5th and 6th grade students for the 2007-2008 school year.

On July 16, 2008 Public Act 95-0737 became law which provides that for the 2008-2009 school year only, sixth grade students who previously submitted evidence of receiving a health examination within two years prior to beginning sixth grade are not required to submit evidence of having received an additional health examination prior to the 2008-2009 school year. The Board's policy is now being amended to reflect the requirements of Public Act 95-0422 and Public Act 95-0737 as well as the new statutory requirements of Public Act 095-0671 and Illinois Department of Public Health regulations that require kindergarten students and all students new to the district to submit proof of having received an eye examination.

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~~ sixth 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~~ sixth 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. At time of student enrollment, the principal shall ensure that parents/guardians are asked to provide proof of the required student health examination and immunizations. 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").

For the 2008-2009 school year only, any sixth grade student who previously submitted evidence of receiving a health examination within two years prior to beginning sixth grade is not required to submit evidence of having received an additional health examination prior to the 2008-2009 school year, unless the student is attending a Chicago Public School for the first time, as provided in paragraph I.A.2 below.

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 religious exemption 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.

Students who show evidence of an undue burden as defined by Illinois Department of Public Health rules or a lack of access to a dentist are eligible to receive a waiver from the dental examination requirement in accordance with Illinois Department of Public Health rules. Principals or their designees shall provide the parent/guardian with the waiver form established by the Illinois Department of Public Health ("Dental Examination Waiver Form") for parent/guardian signature. No other waiver form may be used for dental exam waivers based on undue burden or lack of access to a dentist. 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.

III. Eye Examinations Requirements

A. Requirements

1. General Requirements. Starting in the 2008-2009 school year, all students enrolling in kindergarten and any student enrolling in the Chicago Public Schools for the first time, excluding preschool students, shall present proof of having received an eye examination as prescribed by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Proof must be submitted by October 15th of the year in which the student enters kindergarten or the student first enters any Chicago Public School. The eye examination must have been completed within the previous twelve months, by a licensed physician who performs eye exams or an optometrist, and recorded on the Illinois Department of Public Health's Eye Examination Report ("Eye Exam Report"). Students entering the Chicago Public Schools for the first time after October 15th shall have until May 15th to submit the required Eye Exam Report.

2. Screenings. Vision screenings conducted by the Chicago Public Schools for students in kindergarten, second grade and eighth grade in accordance with Section 5/27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code are screenings only and therefore do not satisfy the eye examination requirement noted in Section III.A.1 above. However, students are not required to submit to a CPS vision screening if they have already submitted a valid Eye Exam Report dated within 12 months of the planned screening.

B. Failure to Submit an Eye Exam Report

If a kindergarten student or student enrolling in CPS for the first time fails to present a valid Eye Exam Report by the deadline noted in section III.A. above, the principal may, at his or her discretion, withhold the student's report card until the school receives either (1) a valid Eye Exam Report, (2) proof that an eye examination is scheduled to take place within 60 days, or (3) an appropriately executed Eye Examination Waiver Form or religious exemption waiver request (see paragraph III.C. below). Students will not be excluded from school due to failure to obtain an eye examination. 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.

C. Waivers

Students whose parents or legal guardians object on religious grounds to eye examinations or any part thereof shall not be required to submit to an eye 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.

Students who show evidence of an undue burden as defined by Illinois Department of Public Health rules or a lack of access to an optometrist or to a physician who provides eye examinations are eligible to receive a waiver from the eye examination requirement in accordance with Illinois Department of Public Health rules. Principals or their designees shall provide the parent/guardian with the waiver form established by Illinois Department of Public Health ("Eye Examination Waiver Form") for parent/guardian signature. No other waiver form may be used for eye exam waivers based on undue burden or lack of access to an optometrist or physician who provides eye examinations. The Office of Specialized Services ("OSS") may accept a student's Eye Examination Waiver Form on a limited basis, or for a limited duration based on a determination by OSS that sufficient resources and providers are available for the student to undergo an eye examination.

LEGAL REFERENCES: 105 ILCS 5/27-8.1; 105 ILCS 5/26-1 et. seq.; 77 Ill. Admin. Code 665

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully Submitted:



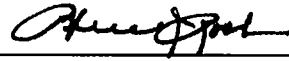
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Noted:



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Approved as to Legal Form. 



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