

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

The Governing Board recognizes the importance of periodic health examinations conducted according to state health regulations.

To determine the health status of students, facilitate the removal of handicaps to learning, and determine whether special adaptations of the school program may be necessary, the Board shall require that periodic examinations be conducted which include tests for vision, hearing and scoliosis.

All personnel employed to examine students shall exercise proper care of each student being examined and shall ensure that the examination results are kept confidential. (Education Code 49450)

A parent/guardian may annually file a statement with the principal withholding consent to any physical examination of his/her child. The statement may specify that examination is contrary to their religious beliefs. The child shall be exempt, but shall be subject to exclusion due to a suspected contagious or infectious disease. (Education Code 49451 and 49455)

The principal of each school shall notify parents/guardians of the rights of students and parents/guardians relating to health examinations.

The Board may from time to time require reports regarding the numbers of students found to have physical problems and the effort made to correct them. (Education Code 49457)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop the necessary procedures to implement this policy.

(cf. 5141.31 – Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.32 – Kindergarten Screening)

Vision

Students shall have their vision tested by qualified personnel authorized by the district. (Education Code 49452, 49454)

Students shall have their vision examined upon first enrollment in elementary school. Further examinations shall take place every three years until the student has completed 8th grade. The results of the vision appraisal shall be entered into the student's health record. All students shall be tested for visual acuity. Color vision shall be tested once and only in male students. External observations of the student's eyes, visual performance and perception shall be done by the school nurse and the classroom teacher. (Education Code 49455)

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS (continued)

The above evaluation of a student's vision may be waived at the parent/guardian's request if the parent/guardian presents a certificate from either a medical doctor or an optometrist stating the results of an examination of the student's vision including visual acuity, and, in male children, color vision.

Visual defects, or any other defects, found as a result of the vision examination shall be reported to the parent/guardian with a request that remedial action be taken to correct or cure the defect. The written report shall not include a referral to any private practitioner. (Education Code 49456)

The student may be referred to a public clinic, or diagnostic and treatment center operated by a public hospital or by the state, county or city department of public health. (Education Code 49456)

Scoliosis Screening

The Board shall provide for the screening of students for the condition known as, scoliosis. Every female student in the 7th grade and every male student in the 8th grade shall be screened. The screening shall follow the standards established by the State Department of Education and shall be performed by qualified personnel as specified by law. (Education Code 49452.5)

Persons performing the screening shall not solicit, encourage or advise treatment of the student for scoliosis. The same shall apply to any other condition discovered in the course of the screening for scoliosis. (Education Code 49452.5)

The parent/guardian of any student suspected of having scoliosis shall be notified. The notice shall include an explanation of scoliosis, the significance of treatment at an early age, and the public services available for treatment. A referral to the appropriate community resources for diagnosis and treatment shall be made. (Education Code 49452.5)

Interscholastic Athletic Competition

All students who participate as cheerleaders, song leaders, or athletes in interscholastic sports are required to file a current medical examination. Compliance with the medical examination requirement is not necessary for participants in a play day or a field day activity occurring occasionally during a school year in which students of one or more particular grade levels from two or more schools in the district participate in athletic contests.

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS (continued)

If a student sustains an injury or serious illness, the student may be required by school personnel to have another examination prior to further interscholastic competition.

A student who has been excused from the physical education program because of a medical reason may not participate in any interscholastic athletic competition.

All students engaging in interscholastic athletic competition are required to meet accident insurance requirements prescribed by law.

(cf. 5143 - Insurance)

(cf. 6145.2 – Interscholastic Competition)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44871-44879 Employment qualifications

48211-48214 Persons excluded

48980 Parental notifications

49400-49410 General powers-school boards (re pupil health)

49422 Supervision of health and physical development

49450-49458 Physical examinations (of students)

49460-49466 Development of standardized health assessments

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

120325-120380 Immunization against communicable diseases

121475-121520 Tuberculosis tests for students

124025-124110 Child Health and Disability Prevention Program

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

590-596 Vision screening

3027 Hearing and vision screening for special education

3028 Audiological screening

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

1232h Protection of student rights

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Standards for Scoliosis Screening in California Public Schools, 2007

A Guide for Vision Testing in California Public Schools, 2005

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Joint Guidance on the Application of FERPA and HIPAA to Student Health Records, November 2008

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Expanding Access to School Health Services: Policy Considerations for Governing Boards, November 2008

Promoting Oral Health for California's Students: New Roles, New Opportunities for Schools, November 2008

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS (continued)

Management Resources: (continued)

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, Health Services/School Nursing: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn>

California Department of Education, Type 2 Diabetes Information:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type2diabetes.asp>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>