

5320 – IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH EXAMINATION

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, students are required to undergo a health examination and to be immunized against such diseases, as follow:

Health Examination

Each child who is entitled to admittance to kindergarten or is entitled to any other initial entrance into a public school in the District must have a certification of a school-entry health examination performed by a licensed examiner within one (1) year before enrollment in school.

A child shall be exempted from the requirement of a health examination upon written request of the parent of the child stating objections to the examination on religious grounds.

Children and youths who are experiencing homelessness shall be governed by Policy 5111.01

Immunization

Prior to admittance to or attendance in a public school in the District, grades kindergarten through 12, or any other initial entrance into a Florida public school, each child shall present or have on file with the school a certification of immunization for the prevention of those communicable diseases for which immunization is required by the Department of Health. Such certification shall be made on forms approved and provided by the Department of Health and shall become a part of each student's permanent record, to be transferred when the student transfers, is promoted, or changes schools.

The parents of any child admitted to or in attendance at a public school, grades prekindergarten through 12, are responsible for assuring that the child is in compliance with the provisions of this policy.

Each public school, including public kindergarten, shall provide to the county health department director or administrator annual reports of compliance with the provisions of this policy. Reports shall be completed on forms provided by the Department of Health for each kindergarten and other grade as specified, and the reports shall include the status of children who were admitted at the beginning of the school year.

The presence of any of the communicable diseases for which immunization is required by the Department of Health in a public school shall permit the county health department director or administrator or the State Health Officer to declare a communicable disease emergency. The declaration of such emergency shall mandate that all students in attendance in the school who are not in compliance with the provisions of this policy be identified by the Board, and the school health and immunization records of such children shall be made available to the county health department director or administrator. Those children identified as not being immunized against the disease for which the emergency has been declared shall be temporarily excluded from school until such time as is specified by the county health department director or administrator.

Any child otherwise entitled to admittance to kindergarten or any other initial entrance into a Florida public or private school who is not in compliance with the requirements of this policy shall be denied admittance until such requirements are satisfied.

The provisions of this policy shall not apply if:

- A. The parent of the child objects in writing and on the approved Department of Health form that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his/her religious tenets or practices;

1 B. A physician certifies in writing on the approved Department of Health form that the child should be
2 permanently exempt from the required immunization for medical reasons stated in writing;

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4 C. A physician certifies in writing on the approved Department of Health form that the child has
5 received as many immunizations as are medically indicated at the time, and is in the process of
6 completing necessary immunizations;

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8 D. The Department of Health determines that, according to recognized standards of medical
9 practice, any required immunization is unnecessary or hazardous.

10 Children and youths who are experiencing homelessness shall be governed by Policy 5111.01

11 No member of the School Board or any of its employees shall be liable for any injury caused by the
12 administration of a vaccine to any student who is required to be so immunized pursuant to the provisions
13 of this policy. ~~the School Board requires all students to be immunized in accordance with State statutes,~~
14 ~~unless specifically exempt for medical or religious reasons. This policy pertains to both students who~~
15 ~~currently attend school in the District and those eligible to attend.~~

16 ~~The Superintendent may exempt a student from immunization if a physician certifies in writing that~~
17 ~~immunization from a particular disease is medically contraindicated. Florida statutes require that school~~
18 ~~districts grant homeless children a temporary exemption for thirty (30) school days to submit the~~
19 ~~certification of immunization.~~

20 ~~A student who has not completed immunization may not be admitted to school, except as is consistent~~
21 ~~with the law.~~

22 F.S. 1003.22
23 F.A.C. 64D-3.046
24 Revised xx/xx/xx

25 Approved as to form and legality:

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27 _____
28 School Board Attorney
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