

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 200 Pupils

TITLE: Health
Examinations/Screenings

ADOPTED: April 27, 1981

REVISED: October 19, 2017

209 HEALTH EXAMINATIONS/SCREENINGS

Authority

In compliance with the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, the School Reform Commission shall require that district students submit to health and dental examinations in order to protect the school community from the spread of communicable disease, and to ensure that each student's health status is at an optimal level and that the learning potential of each student is not lessened by a remediable physical disability.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Each student shall provide written documentation of a comprehensive health examination conducted by a board certified physician, certified school nurse or certified nurse practitioner upon original entry, in sixth grade, ninth and eleventh grade.[\[11\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

Each student shall provide written documentation of a comprehensive dental examination conducted by a private dentist or dental hygienist or a contracted school based dentist authorized by the district upon original entry, in third grade, and in seventh grade.[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

A program of dental education shall be provided to all students in prekindergarten through grade seven.

A dental examination conducted at the parents'/guardians' request and expense shall be accepted in lieu of the examinations conducted by school-based dental providers. The district shall accept reports of privately conducted physical and dental examinations completed within one (1) year prior to a student's entry into the grade where an exam is required.[\[5\]](#)

The certified school nurse shall administer to each student vision screenings, hearing screenings, scoliosis screenings, and annual growth screenings.[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

A student who presents a statement signed by the parent/guardian that a medical examination is contrary to his/her religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that the student presents a substantial menace to the health of others.[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)

Where it appears to school health officials or teachers that a student deviates from normal growth and development, or where school examinations reveal conditions requiring health or dental care, the parent/guardian shall be informed; and a recommendation shall be made that the

parent/guardian consult a private physician or dentist. The parent/guardian shall be required to report to the school the action taken subsequent to such notification. If the parent/guardian fails to report the action taken, the certified school nurse or school physician shall coordinate a special medical examination for the student.[2][4][9]

Parents/Guardians of students who are required to receive grade mandated physical and dental examinations or screenings shall be notified. The notice shall include the form(s) to be completed by the physician and/or dentist and to provide the documentation to the school principal or certified school nurse. Such statement may also include notification that the student may be exempted from such examination or screening if it is contrary to the parent's/guardian's religious beliefs.[10][11][12]

Health Records

The district shall maintain for each student a comprehensive health record which includes a record of immunizations and the result of tests, measurements, regularly scheduled examinations and special examinations.[2]

All health records shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only when necessary for the health of the student or when requested by the parent/guardian, in accordance with law and SRC policy.[13][14]

Designated district staff shall request from the transferring school the health records of students transferring into district schools. Staff shall respond to such requests for the health records of students transferring from district schools to other schools.[13]

The district shall not destroy a student's health record for a period of at least two (2) years after the student ceases to be enrolled, but may surrender the student's health record portion thereof to the parent or guardian if the student does not re-enroll in an elementary or secondary school in Pennsylvania..[13][15]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall instruct all staff members to continually observe students for conditions that indicate health problems or disability and to promptly report such conditions to the certified school nurse.[2]

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that notice is provided to all parents/guardians regarding the existence of and eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).[9]

Legal References:

1. 24 P.S. 1401

2. 24 P.S. 1402

3. 24 P.S. 1403

4. 22 PA Code 12.41

5. 24 P.S. 1407

6. 28 PA Code 23.1 et seq

7. 24 P.S. 1419

8. 28 PA Code 23.45

9. 24 P.S. 1406

10. 24 P.S. 1405

11. 28 PA Code 23.2

12. 20 U.S.C. 1232h

13. 24 P.S. 1409

14. Pol. 216 - Student Records

15. Pol. 800 - Records Management

16. 24 P.S. 1410

17. 28 PA Code 23.3

Related Information:

24 P.S. 1401-1419

22 PA Code 403.1

55 PA Code 3270.131

55 PA Code 3270.132

55 PA Code 3270.241

Philadelphia Code of Ordinances - Title 6, Section 6-209