Policy 5141.31: Immunizations

Status: ADOPTED

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To protect the health of all students and staff and to curtail the spread of infectious diseases, the Governing Board shall cooperate with state and local public health agencies to encourage and facilitate immunization of all district students against preventable diseases.

Each student enrolling for the first time in a district school, preschool, or child care and development program or enrolling in or advancing to grade 7 shall present an immunization record from any authorized private or public health care provider certifying that the student has received all required immunizations in accordance with law. Students shall be excluded from school or exempted from immunization requirements only as allowed by law.

Transfer students shall be requested to present immunization records upon registration at district schools if possible.

The Superintendent or designee may arrange for an authorized health care provider to administer immunizations at school to any student whose parent/guardian has consented in writing. At the beginning of the school year, parents/guardians shall be notified of their right to provide consent for the administration of an immunization to their child at school. (Education Code 48980, 49403)

IMMUNIZATIONS

Required Immunizations

The Superintendent or designee shall provide parents/guardians, upon school registration, a written notice summarizing the state's immunization requirements.

The Superintendent or designee shall not unconditionally admit any student to a district elementary or secondary school, preschool, or child care and development program for the first time nor, after July 1, 2016, admit or advance any student to grade 7 unless the student has been fully immunized. The student shall present documentation of full immunization, in accordance with the age/grade and dose required by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), against the following diseases: (Health and Safety Code 120335; 17 CCR 6020)

1. Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
2. Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) (DTP, DTaP, or Tdap)
3. Poliomyelitis (polio)
4. Hepatitis B
5. Varicella (chickenpox)
6. Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib meningitis)
7. Any other disease designated by the CDPH

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)
(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)
(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)
(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

However, full immunization against hepatitis B shall not be a condition by which the Superintendent or designee shall admit or advance any student to grade 7. (Health and Safety Code 120335)

A student who qualifies for an individualized education program (IEP), unless otherwise exempt, shall be fully immunized in accordance with Health and Safety Code 120335 and this regulation. However, the district shall continue to implement the student's IEP and shall not prohibit the student from accessing any special education and related service required by his/her IEP regardless of whether the student is fully immunized. (Health and Safety Code 120335)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

IMMUNIZATIONS (continued)

The student's immunization record shall be provided by the student's health care provider or from the student's previous school immunization record. The record must show at least the month and year for each dose, except that the day, month, and year must be shown for the MMR doses given during the month of the first birthday and for the Tdap dose given during the month of the seventh birthday. (l7 CCR 6070)

Exemptions

Exemption from one or more immunization requirements shall be granted under any of the following circumstances:

1. The parent/guardian files with the district a written statement by a licensed physician to the effect that the physical condition of the child is such, or medical circumstances relating to the child are such, that immunization is not considered safe. The statement shall indicate the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances, including, but not limited to, family medical history, for which the physician does not recommend immunization. (Health and Safety Code 120370; 17 CCR 6051)

2. The student's parent/guardian files with the district, before January 1, 2016, a letter or written affidavit stating that an immunization is contrary to his/her personal beliefs, in which case the student shall be exempted from the immunization until he/she enrolls in the next applicable grade span requiring immunization (birth to preschool, grades K-6, grades 7-12). (Health and Safety Code 120335)

   (cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

   When a student transfers to a different school within the district or transfers into the district from another school district in California, his/her personal beliefs exemption filed before January 1, 2016, shall remain in effect until the next applicable grade span. A student transferring from a school outside the district shall present a copy of the personal beliefs exemption upon enrollment. When a student transfers into the district from outside California and presents a personal beliefs exemption issued by another state or country prior to January 1, 2016, the Superintendent or designee may consult with legal counsel regarding the applicable immunization requirements.

3. The student is enrolled in an independent study program pursuant to Education Code 51745-51749.6 and does not receive classroom-based instruction.

   (cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

Conditional Enrollment

The Superintendent or designee may conditionally admit a student with documentation from an authorized health care provider that: (Health and Safety Code 120340; 17 CCR 6000, 6035)

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1. The student has not received all the immunizations required for his/her age group, but has commenced receiving doses of all required vaccines and is not due for any other doses at the time of admission.

2. The student has a temporary exemption from immunization for medical reasons pursuant to item #1 in the section "Exemptions" above.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parents/guardians of the date by which the student must complete all the remaining doses as specified in 17 CCR 6035.

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

In addition, a transfer student may be conditionally admitted for up to 30 school days while his/her immunization records are being transferred from the previous school. If such documentation is not presented within 30 days, the student shall be excluded from school until the required immunizations have been administered. (17 CCR 6070)

The Superintendent or designee shall review the immunization record of each student admitted conditionally every 30 days until that student has received all the required immunizations. If the student does not receive the required immunizations within the specified time limits, he/she shall be excluded from further attendance until the immunizations are received. (Health and Safety Code 120375; 17 CCR 6070)

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately enroll homeless students, foster youth, and students of military families even if their immunization records are missing or unavailable at the time of enrollment. School or district staff shall work with the student's prior school to obtain the student's immunization records or shall ensure that he/she is properly immunized. (Education Code 48853.5, 49701; Health and Safety Code 120341; 42 USC 11432)
(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

Exclusions Due to Lack of Immunizations

Any student without the required evidence of immunization may be excluded from school until the immunization is obtained or an exemption is granted in accordance with the section "Exemptions" above.

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)
(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)

Before an already admitted student is excluded from school attendance because of lack of immunization, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian that he/she has 10 school days to supply evidence of proper immunization or an appropriate exemption. This

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notice shall refer the parent/guardian to the student's usual source of medical care or, if the student has no usual source of medical care, then to the county health department or school immunization program, if any. (Education Code 48216; 17 CCR 6040)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

The Superintendent or designee shall exclude from further attendance any already admitted student who fails to obtain the required immunization within 10 school days following the parent/guardian's receipt of the notice specified above. The student shall remain excluded from school until he/she provides written evidence that he/she has received a dose of each required vaccine due at that time. The student shall also be reported to the attendance supervisor or principal. (17 CCR 6055)

Exclusion Due to Exposure to Disease

If the district has good cause to believe that a student has been exposed to a disease listed in the section "Required Immunizations" above and his/her documentation of immunization does not show proof of immunization against that disease, that student may be temporarily excluded from the school until the local health officer informs the district in writing that he/she is satisfied that the student is no longer at risk of developing or transmitting the disease. (Health and Safety Code 120370)

Records

The Superintendent or designee shall record each new entrant's immunizations in the California School Immunization Record and retain it as part of the student's mandatory permanent student record. District staff shall maintain the confidentiality of immunization records and may disclose such information to state and local health departments only in accordance with law. (Health and Safety Code 120375, 120440; 17 CCR 6070)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

The district shall also retain in the mandatory student record any physician or health officer statement, personal beliefs letter or affidavit, reason for conditional enrollment, or any other documentation related to the student's immunization record or exemptions.

Audits

If an audit reveals deficiencies in the district's reporting procedures, the Superintendent or designee shall present the Board with a plan to remedy such deficiencies.