Policy Code: 4110 Immunization and Health Requirements for School Entry

The board of education requires all students to meet the eligibility requirements for school admission established by the State and the board, including immunization and health assessments. The principal or designee shall maintain on file immunization and health assessment records for all students and these records may be inspected by officials of the county or state health departments in accordance with state and federal law. Each school principal will file required reports with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction.

A. Immunizations

1. Requirements for Initial Entry

Within 30 calendar days of his or her first day of attendance in the school system, each student must show evidence of age appropriate vaccination in accordance with state law and regulation including the following vaccines as applicable:

- a. DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis);
- b. Poliomyelitis (polio);
- c. Measles (rubeola);
- d. Rubella (German Measles);
- e. Mumps;
- f. Haemophilus influenza, type b (Hib);
- g. Hepatitis B;
- h. Varicella (chickenpox);
- i. pneumococcal conjugate; (only for children entering school before age 5)
- j. Any other vaccine as may be required by law or regulation

The current required vaccination schedule is available from the N.C. Immunization Branch online at http://www.immunize.nc.gov/

The current recommended vaccination schedule is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention online at: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/index.html

2. Additional Requirements

All students entering 7th grade or who have reached age 12, whichever comes first, are required to receive the following:

- a. a booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine), if they have not previously received it; and
- b. the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

All students entering the twelfth grade or who have reached age 17 are required to receive

a booster dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

3. Certificate of Immunization

- a. Evidence of immunizations must be shown in the form of a certificate furnished by a licensed physician or by the health department. A student who received immunizations in a state other than North Carolina must present an official certificate that meets the immunization requirements of <u>G.S. 130A-154(b)</u>.
- b. Principals are required to refuse admittance to any child whose parent or guardian does not present a medical certification of proper immunizations within the allotted time. If, following approved medical practice, the administration of a vaccine requires more than 30 calendar days to complete, upon certification of this fact by a physician, additional days may be allowed in order to obtain the required immunizations.
- c. Exceptions to the immunization requirement will be made only for religious reasons or for medical reasons approved by the state law and regulation.

B. Health Assessment/Vision Screening

Within 30 calendar days of the first day of school entry, all students entering North Carolina public schools for the first time, must furnish to the principal a form that meets the requirements of state law indicating that the student has received a health assessment pursuant to <u>G.S. 130A-440</u>. A student who fails to meet this requirement will not be permitted to attend school until the required health assessment form has been presented. Such absences will not be considered suspensions, and the student will be given an opportunity to make up work missed during the absence as described below. At the time of enrollment, the parent, guardian or person standing *in loco parentis* is notified that the completed health assessment form is needed on or before the child's first day of attendance. The student's health assessment form will be recorded in the student's official record, and the form will be maintained on file in the school.

The assessment must include a medical history and physical examination with screening for vision and hearing and, if appropriate, testing for anemia, and tuberculosis. The health assessment must be conducted no more than 12 months prior to the date of school entry.

Within 180 days of the start of the school year, the parent of the child must present to the principal or his or her designee certification that within the past 12 months the child has obtained vision screening performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist or has obtained a vision screening conducted by a licensed physician, optometrist, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, orthoptist, or a vision screener certified by Prevent Blindness North Carolina.

Children who receive, and fail to pass, the required vision screening must obtain a comprehensive eye exam conducted by a duly licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist. The provider of the exam will present to the parent a signed transmittal form which the parent must submit to the school. If a member of the school staff has reason to believe that a child enrolled in kindergarten through third grade is having problems with vision, the staff may recommend to the child's parent/guardian that the child have a comprehensive eye examination.

No child will be excluded from attending school solely for a parent's failure to obtain a comprehensive eye exam. If a parent fails or refuses to obtain a comprehensive eye exam or to provide the certification of a comprehensive eye exam, school officials will send a written reminder to the parent of required eye exams.

Upon request, the teacher(s) of a student subject to an absence from school for failure to provide the health assessment form required by this section shall provide to the student all missed assignments, and to the extent practicable, the materials distributed to students in connection with assignments. The principal or designee shall arrange for the student to take home textbooks and school-furnished digital devices for the duration of the absence and shall permit the student to take any quarterly, semester, or grading period examinations missed during the absence period.

C. Homeless Students

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, admission for homeless students will not be prohibited or delayed due to the student's inability to provide documentation of immunizations or health assessments. The homeless liaison will work with the student, parent/guardian, school personnel, or other agencies to obtain documentation of immunization and/or health assessment or to arrange for such immunizations and/or assessments in a timely manner.

D. Foster Children

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, admissions for students in foster care will not be prohibited or delayed due to the student's inability to provide documentation of immunizations or health assessments. The enrolling school will immediately contact the last school attended by the foster child to obtain any relevant documentation.

E. Children of Military Families

The Board acknowledges that immunization requirements for newly-enrolling children of military families are governed by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children(G.S. 115C-407.5) and G.S. 115C-407.12. Children of military families will have 30 days from the date of enrollment to obtain any required immunization. For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within 30 days.

Legal References: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, <u>20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(1)(E)</u>; McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, <u>42 U.S.C. § 11431</u> et seq.; <u>G.S. 115C-390.2(1)</u>, <u>-407.5</u>, <u>-407.12</u>; <u>130A-152 – 157</u>, <u>-440 to -443</u>; <u>10A N.C.A.C. 41A.0401</u>; <u>S.L. 2015-222</u>

Cross References: Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Homeless Students (policy 4125), Attendance (policy 4400)

Other References: N.C. Immunization Branch, available at http://www.immunize.nc.gov/

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Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools