

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

The Governing Board recognizes that periodic health examinations of students may lead to early detection and treatment of conditions that impact learning. Health examinations also may help in determining whether special adaptations of the school program are necessary.

The Superintendent or designee shall verify that students have complied with legal requirements for a comprehensive health screening, an oral health assessment, and immunizations at school entry. In addition, the district shall administer tests for vision, hearing, and scoliosis as required by law.

(cf. 5141.26 - Tuberculosis Testing)
(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)
(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)
(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

All students who participate as cheerleaders, song leaders, or athletes in organized competitive sports shall first undergo a medical examination and submit documentation of medical clearance to the district. Upon sustaining an injury or serious illness, a student may be required to have another examination before participating further. This requirement does not apply to participants in occasional play day or field day activities.

(cf. 5143 - Insurance)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff employed to examine students exercise proper care of each student and that examination results are kept confidential. Records related to these examinations shall be maintained and released only in accordance with law.

(cf. 5125 – Student Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
44871-44879 Employment qualifications
48980 Parental notifications
49400-49414.5 Student health, general powers of school boards
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

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS (continued)

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:

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

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

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

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>

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

The principal at each school shall notify parents/guardians of the rights of students and parents/guardians related to health examinations. (Education Code 48980; 20 USC 1232h)

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

A parent/guardian may annually file a written statement with the principal withholding consent to the physical examination of his/her child. Any such student shall be exempt from any physical examination but shall be subject to exclusion from attendance when contagious or infectious disease is reasonably suspected. (Education Code 49451; 20 USC 1232h)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

(cf. 5141.26 - Tuberculosis Testing)

Vision and Hearing Tests

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

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

All students shall be tested for visual acuity when they first enroll in elementary school and at least every three years thereafter until they complete grade 8. Gross external observation of the student's eyes, visual performance, and perception shall be made by the school nurse and the classroom teacher. (Education Code 49455)

For male students, color vision shall be tested one time, after the student reaches grade 1. Results of the test shall be entered into the student's health record. (Education Code 49455)

Evaluation of a student's vision may be waived at the parent/guardian's request if the parent/guardian presents a certificate from an authorized health care provider specifying the results of an examination of the student's vision, including visual acuity, and, in male students, color vision. (Education Code 49455)

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 report of a visual defect, if made in writing, shall be made on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Education Code 49456)

Such reports shall not include a referral to any private practitioner. However, 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)

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS (continued)

Scoliosis Screening

Each female student in grade 7 and each male student in grade 8 shall be screened for scoliosis. This screening shall comply with California Department of Education (CDE) standards and shall be performed by qualified personnel as specified in law. (Education Code 49452.5)

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

The parent/guardian of any student suspected of having scoliosis shall receive a notice, which includes an explanation of scoliosis and describes the significance of treatment at an early age. This notice shall also describe the public services available for treatment and include a referral to appropriate community resources. (Education Code 49452.5)

Type 2 Diabetes Information

Because type 2 diabetes in children is a preventable and treatable disease, parents/guardians are encouraged to have their child screened by an authorized health care practitioner for risk factors of the disease, including excess weight, and to request tests of their child's blood glucose to determine if he/she has diabetes or pre-diabetes.

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide parents/guardians of incoming students in grade 7 with an information sheet developed by the CDE regarding type 2 diabetes, which includes a description of the disease and its risk factors and warning signs, a recommendation that students displaying or possibly suffering from risk factors or warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes be screened for the disease, a description of the different types of diabetes screening tests available, and a description of treatments and prevention methods. The information sheet may be provided with the parental notifications required pursuant to Education Code 48980. (Education Code 49452.7)

The Superintendent or designee may provide information to parents/guardians regarding public or private sources from which they may receive diabetes screening and education services for free or at reduced costs.