

HEALTH SCREENING FOR SCHOOL ENTRY

When parents/guardians enroll their children in kindergarten, the district shall inform them about their obligation to obtain or waive a health screening for their children before they enter first grade. The district shall also inform them about the availability of free health screening for low-income children, as provided under the Child Health and Disabilities Prevention Program, and about the evaluation services and other benefits provided under Chapter 2, Article 3.4 of the Health and Safety Code. (Health and Safety Code 324.2, 324.3)

The above information shall initially be provided with notifications about immunization requirements and shall encourage parents/guardians to arrange for their children to obtain their health screening at the time when they receive their immunizations.

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

The above information shall also be provided to parents/guardians when they enroll in first grade any children who have not attended kindergarten in the district.

Any first grade student who has not had a health screening or presented an appropriate waiver shall be excluded from school for up to five days unless the parent/guardian: (Health and Safety Code 324.3)

1. Presents or has presented evidence that the child has obtained a health screening;
2. Presents evidence of an appointment to obtain a health screening within 14 days, and subsequently presents evidence that a health screening was conducted within three months of enrollment; or
3. Signs or has signed a waiver for the health screening.

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually provide the county Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, the State Department of Health Services and the California Department of Education with the health screening information required by law. (Health and Safety Code 324.2.)

Oral Health Assessment for Grades K-1

No later than May 31 of the relevant school year, the parent/guardian of a kindergarten student, or first-grade student who was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, shall certify that the student has received an oral health assessment. The oral health assessment shall have been performed by a licensed dentist or other authorized dental health professional no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of the student's initial enrollment.

HEALTH SCREENING FOR SCHOOL ENTRY (continued)

The parent/guardian shall submit to the Superintendent or designee a California Department of Education standardized form, which has been completed and signed by the dental health professional. (Education Code 49452.8)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of the oral health assessment requirement. The notification shall, at a minimum, consist of a letter that includes all of the following: (Education Code 49452.8)

1. An explanation of the administrative requirements of the law
2. Information on the importance of primary teeth
3. Information on the importance of oral health to overall health and to learning
4. A toll-free telephone number to request an application for Healthy Families, Medi-Cal, or other government-subsidized health insurance programs
5. Contact information for county public health departments
6. A statement of privacy applicable under state and federal laws and regulations

The notification and certification form shall be provided to parents/guardians when they register their child for school.

The student may be excused from complying with the oral health assessment if his/her parent/guardian indicates on the standardized form that it could not be completed for any of the following reasons: (Education Code 49452.8)

1. Completion of an assessment poses an undue financial burden on the parent/guardian.
2. The parent/guardian lacks access to a licensed dentist or other dental health professional.
3. The parent/guardian does not consent to an assessment.

Students who are not assessed, or for whom the parents/guardians fail to return the standardized form, shall not be excluded from school attendance.

By December 31 of each year, the Superintendent or designee shall report data on oral health assessments to the county office of education in accordance with Education Code 49452.8.

HEALTH SCREENING FOR SCHOOL ENTRY (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48985 Notice to parents in language other than English

49060-49079 Pupil records

49452.8 Oral health assessment

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

104395 Child Health and Disability Prevention Program expansion

124025-124110 Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, especially:

124085 Certificate documenting health screening and evaluation services; waiver by parent/guardian

124100 Distribution of program information to parents/guardians of kindergarten children

124105 Exclusions and exemption; legislative intent of notification contents

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

432 Student records

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 17

6800-6874 Child Health and Disability Prevention Program

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Promoting Oral Health for California's Students: New Roles, New Opportunities for Schools, Governance and Policy Services, Policy Brief, February 2007

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

CHDP School Handbook: School Entry Health Examination Requirements, rev. January 2006

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, Health Services: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn>

California Dental Association: <http://www.cda.org>

California Department of Health Services, Child Health and Disability Prevention Program:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp>

California Healthy Kids Resource Center: <http://www.californiahealthykids.org>