

## Students

### HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

5141.3(a)

- I. In accordance with Connecticut General statutes, each student enrolled in the Fairfield schools shall be required to have a health assessment by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine (physician or osteopath licensed to practice in the United States), or by an advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, or Physician Assistant licensed to practice in Connecticut.
- prior to initial entrance into preschool programs,
  - prior to initial entrance into kindergarten,
  - for transfer students, prior to initial entrance into the Fairfield schools
  - in grades 6 and 9
  - for ungraded students, prior to initial entrance and whenever a health assessment is required for students of the same age cohort as the ungraded student.

All health assessments required above shall include documentation of an assessment of the student's risk of exposure to tuberculosis. Any student determined to be at high risk shall receive a Mantoux tuberculin skin test performed in the United States as part of the required health assessment.

Health assessments required prior to initial entrance into a Fairfield school shall include evidence of a Mantoux tuberculin skin test performed after most recent entry into the United States for students entering school in Fairfield from a country with a high prevalence of tuberculosis.

Countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis include those identified as such by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Refer to corresponding Administrative Regulations.

Any student found to have a positive Mantoux tuberculin skin test or tuberculosis disease shall be permitted to attend school only in accordance with the tuberculosis control protocols established by the Fairfield Director of Health and School Medical Advisor.

Any student not in accordance with this policy shall not be permitted to register for or continue attendance in school.

All students are encouraged to have their health assessments done by their private health care provider to promote continuity of care. However, if this is not done, health assessments will be available in the schools or in the Fairfield Well Child Clinic for eligible students with parent authorization.

Students who are experiencing health problems or are suspected of having a health problem may be referred to their private health care provider for a health assessment at other than required times.

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### **HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND IMMUNIZATIONS (continued) 5141.3(b)**

- II. Students in high schools participating in interscholastic sports (tryouts, practice and play) will be required to have a health assessment by their private health care provider within one calendar year prior to start of participation in the sport for the current school year. Students who do not have evidence of the health assessment within the calendar year cannot participate in the sport. Students participating in high school interscholastic sports (tryouts, practice, or play) shall be required to have a health assessment no more than thirteen months prior to participation in the sport for the current school year. The health assessment is valid for a period of thirteen months from the date it was done. Once the health assessment becomes more than thirteen-months old, the student cannot continue to participate in the sport until a new health assessment is done and submitted to the school. The health assessment must be done by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine (physician or osteopath licensed to practice in the United States), or by an advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, or Physician Assistant licensed to practice in Connecticut.

For the 2020-2021 school year, pre-participation physical validation has been extended from 13 months to 15 months. The medical standard for receiving a physical is 13 months. When possible, student-athletes should update their physical within that 13 month timeframe.

- III. Timing of health assessments shall be in accordance with the corresponding Administrative Regulations.
- IV. Connecticut state statutes permit exemption from physical or medical examination required for entry into school or entry into grades 6 or 9 if the parent/legal guardian of a student provides a written statement that the parent/legal guardian of the student, or the student, objects on religious grounds, to physical or medical examination. These exemptions do not apply to health assessments required for participation in sports.
- V. In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Education shall require students to be protected by adequate immunizations against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus influenza type b, hepatitis B, chicken pox (varicella), pneumococcal, hepatitis A, influenza, meningococcal (unless medically contraindicated or failure to do so is based upon exercise of the rights of freedom or religion as provided in the United States and Connecticut Constitutions and in the Connecticut General Statutes.)

Parents/guardians wanting their children excused from immunizations on religious grounds (prior to kindergarten entry and grade 7 entry) must request such exemption in writing to the Superintendent of Schools if such immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of the child or of the parent/guardian of the child. The request must be officially acknowledged by a notary public or a judge, a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a town clerk, a justice of the peace, a Connecticut-licensed attorney or a school nurse. It is the responsibility of the Principal to insure that each student enrolled has been adequately immunized and has fulfilled the required health assessments. The school nurse shall check and document immunizations and health assessments on all students enrolling in school and to report the status to the school principal. The school nurse shall also contact parents or guardians to make them

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### HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND IMMUNIZATIONS (continued)

5141.3(c)

aware if immunizations and/or health assessments are insufficient or not up-to-date. The school nurse will maintain in good order the immunization and health assessment records of each student enrolled.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-204 a Required immunizations (as amended by PA 15-174 and PA 15-242)
- 10-204c Immunity from liability
- 10-205 Appointment of school medical adviser
- 10-206 Health assessments
- 10-206 a Free health assessments
- 10-207 Duties of medical advisors
- 10-208 Exemption from examination or treatment
- 10-208a Physical activity of student restricted; board to honor notice
- 10-209 Records not to be public. Provision of reports to schools.
- 10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners
- 10-214 Vision, audiometric and postural screenings. When required. Notification of parents re defects; record of results.

Department of Public Health, Public Health Code, 10-204a-2a, 10-204a-3a, 10-204a-4

Section 4 of P.A. 14-231

20 U.S.C. Section 1232h, No Child Left Behind Act

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g)

42 U.S.C. 1320d-1320d-8, P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

Adopted 8/27/2004

Revised and Adopted 6/27/2006

Revised and Adopted 6/26/2007

Revised and Adopted 6/28/2011

Revised and Adopted 9/23/2014

Revised and Adopted 12/13/2016

Revised and Adopted 7/14/2020

