

*Health and Dental Examinations*Definitions

For purposes of this Administrative Regulation and the accompanying Board Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

**Family physician** shall mean either a doctor of medicine legally qualified to practice medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth, or an osteopath or osteopathic surgeon legally qualified to practice osteopathy or osteopathic surgery in the Commonwealth, who has been designated by the parent or guardian as the personal physician of the child. To the extent that the Pennsylvania Department of Health permits additional healthcare providers to perform the duties contemplated herein, such healthcare providers will also be recognized by the District as being authorized to perform such duties.

**Family dentist** shall mean a doctor of dental surgery or dental medicine legally qualified to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth, who has been designated by the parent or guardian as the personal dentist of the child. To the extent that the Pennsylvania Department of Health permits additional healthcare providers to perform the duties contemplated herein, such healthcare providers will also be recognized by the District as being authorized to perform such duties.

General Guidelines

Prior to admission to school for the first time, a student's parent/ guardian shall present to the District certification from a primary care provider or vision screener that their child has passed or failed a vision screening performed by a primary care provider or has completed a comprehensive eye exam conducted by an ophthalmologist or optometrist within the previous twelve months. The screening referred to in the prior sentence shall be performed by a primary care provider or persons with specific training in vision screening techniques and protocols approved by the Department of Health or This required screening is required by law to be obtained by the student's parent/guardian and is not a screening that is provided by the District. Individuals who are not able to obtain such a vision screening due to a financial hardship shall contact the building administrator or counselor of the school where their child is seeking enrollment so that the District can explore possible school or community resources that might be able to assist the family in obtaining the required screening.

Each student shall receive a comprehensive health examination upon original entry, in sixth grade, and in eleventh grade. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to have these examinations performed by their child's family physician, and to furnish the District with the required report of examination, completed by the family physician who performed the examination, on a form approved by the Secretary of Health for this purpose. Such exams may be performed up to one year prior to entry in the grade for which the examination is mandated.

Each student shall receive a comprehensive dental examination upon original entry, in third grade, and in seventh grade. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to have these examinations performed by their child's family dentist, and to furnish the District with the required report of examination, completed by the family dentist who performed the examination, on a form approved by the Secretary of Health for this purpose. Such exams may be performed up to one year prior to entry in the grade for which the examination is mandated.

Students who do not have required health or dental examinations performed by their family physician or family dentist shall be required to submit to such examinations by the District physician or dentist. Parents/guardians of students who are to receive such examinations shall be notified. The notice shall include the date and location of the examination and notice that the parent/ guardian is encouraged to attend or may have the examination or screening conducted privately at the parent's/guardian's expense.

#### Other Health Services Provided to Students

Each student shall receive, from the school nurse or designee, the following health services at the indicated intervals

**Vision Screening:** All grades through grade 5, and then at least every other year thereafter through grade 12. These screenings are in addition to the required vision screening of children that parents/guardians must obtain privately within the 12 months prior to their child's admission to school for the first time. Parents/guardians of a student who has failed a required vision screening shall be notified, and such student shall be required to undergo a comprehensive eye examination, performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist, at the parent's/guardian's expense, as required by applicable law.

**Hearing Screening:** Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, and 11

**Height and Weight Checks:** All grades each year

**Scoliosis Screening:** Grades 6 and 7

**Tests for Tuberculosis:** The District will screen students who fall within a high-risk population for TB infection and require a private TB test be completed, with testing results provided to the certified school nurse.

#### Exemptions

A student, or their parent/guardian if the student is a minor, who presents a statement that a medical examination is contrary to their religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that the student presents a substantial risk to the health of others.

Maintenance/Transfer/Destruction of Health Records

Health records shall be maintained for each child. These records shall be available in the school building where the child attends school. Such records shall be transferred with the child when they move from one school to another or from one district to another.

In the case of any child of school age who enrolls in the District and who previously attended school in another district in Pennsylvania, the Superintendent or designee shall request that the district or school where the child previously attended to transfer the health record of the child.

A child's health record shall be retained in accordance with Board Policy 5225 (Student Records), but in no case for a period of time less than two years after the child ceases to be enrolled but may be surrendered to the parent or guardian if the child does not re-enroll in an elementary or secondary school in Pennsylvania or another state within the United States.

Other Requirements

The nurse, physician, or dentist may, upon referral or on their own clinical assessment, advise a child's parent or guardian of the apparent need for a special medical or dental examination.

Recommendations as to medical or dental care shall be communicated to each parent or guardian as required by law with instructions to the parent or guardian to consult their family physician or family dentist and to notify the school authorities of the action taken with respect to the recommendations. When the District learns of a financial hardship that impacts a family's ability to provide an examination, the building principal or designee shall advise the family of assistance that might be available to them. Once the special medical or dental examination is completed, parents/guardians shall share the results of such examinations as required by law.

Notice Regarding Eligibility for Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Each year, by August 15, the Department of Insurance is required to provide the District with notices detailing the existence of and eligibility for CHIP to provide to parents/guardians.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for providing such notice to the parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the District during the school year, upon receipt by the Department of Insurance.