

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Immunization of Students	Date Approved: February 15, 2000 February 21, 2006 March 17, 2009 Date Revised: December 19, 2005 February 17, 2009 Date Effective: February 21, 2006 March 17, 2009

1. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for immunization of students.

2. GUIDELINES

- A. **Education Article Section 7-402 and COMAR 10.06.04** establish immunization requirements for enrollment in schools-A form provided by DHMH or a computer generated form shall be used to record compliance with this law and regulation.
- B. **Required Age Appropriate Immunizations** - A school principal or other person in charge of a school, **may not** admit a student to school, or retain a student in school, unless there is documentation of required age appropriate immunizations as published annually by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Department Epidemiology and Disease Control Program.
- C. **Temporary Admission** - A school principal or other person in charge of a school may temporarily admit a student to, or retain a student in, school if the student is homeless **or** in state supervised care, or if the student, parent, or guardian presents evidence of an appointment with a health care provider or health department to:
- receive a required immunization
 - reconstruct a lost record
 - acquire evidence of age-appropriate immunity.

The date of the appointment may not be later than **20 calendar days** following the date the student was temporarily admitted or retained in school.

Evidence of the appointment is to be in writing and attached to student immunization record. Should a student require several immunizations over an extended period in order to comply with school-entry requirements, written documentation from the physician or clinic shall be attached to the DHMH 896 reflecting the dates that these vaccinations are to be received. Should a student not receive the missing vaccinations as per the written documentation, the student shall be excluded from school until such proof can be provided.

- D. **Homeless Students** - A student who is homeless shall not be excluded from school for noncompliance with the Immunization requirement for school entry. Documentation supporting the homeless status of the student should be attached to the SR 5 card.. The designated school health professional should continue to work with the student, family, and local health department to obtain required proof of immunity.
- E. **Medical Contraindication** - A student who presents a written statement from a licensed physician indicating that immunization against any of the diseases is medically contraindicated, detrimental to, or not in the best interest of the child's health may be admitted to school. The statement shall indicate whether the contraindication is permanent or temporary. If the contraindication is temporary, the statement shall provide assurance that the child will receive the immunizations and furnish evidence of their completion. The school is required to keep a list of students enrolled who have an exemption to immunization for medical reasons.
- F. **Religious Exemption** - A parent or guardian who objects to immunizations upon the grounds that the immunizations conflict with the parent's or guardian's bona fide religious beliefs and practices is required to sign this portion of the state immunization form. The parent/guardian is not required to present a physician's certificate of immunization in order that the child be admitted to school. This exception does not apply in case of an emergency or epidemic of disease which is declared by the health officer or Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene. The school is required to keep a list of students enrolled who have an exemption to immunizations on religious grounds.