



Book	BYLAWS AND POLICIES
Section	8000 OPERATIONS
Title	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS WITH COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
Code	8453
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Mindful of the fact that students with potentially transmittable communicable diseases are likely to be in attendance in IPS, and cognizant of IPS' obligation, consistent with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations including the rules and regulations of the State and County Boards of Public Health, to treat these students with dignity, respect and fairness such that the rights of these students to an appropriate public education is protected while also providing a school environment reasonably free of health hazards, the Board adopts this policy regarding Edison School of the Arts attendance of students with communicable diseases.

Fundamental to the intent of this policy is the concept that as long as a student (1) can profit educationally from Edison School of the Arts attendance, (2) conducts himself/herself in a manner compatible with the standards of conduct expected of all students, and (3) does not, according to the most current medical information available at the time, pose a health threat either to himself/herself or the other students or personnel functioning in the school setting, the affected student shall

be entitled to maintain regular attendance at Edison School of the Arts and receive educational services appropriate to the student's needs.

Therefore, the Board hereby adopts this policy and direct that the following steps be taken:

- A. When it comes to the attention of Edison School of the Arts officials that a student is suspected of, or diagnosed as having a communicable disease (as defined in Indiana), including but not limited to the various types of hepatitis and diseases related to the HIV Virus, the Edison School of the Arts officials shall immediately notify the Superintendent of the situation. (Reference herein to the Superintendent shall be construed to also include the Superintendent' unless the context specifically indicates otherwise. The Superintendent shall immediately make a reasonable effort to verify, using any and all means reasonably available, whether or not a valid and positive medical diagnosis has been made.
- B. Upon verification of a positive medical diagnosis, or in the absence of a valid negative medical diagnosis, the Superintendent shall immediately notify the local health officer. The Superintendent may request the parent or guardian to remove the child from Edison School of the Arts attendance, until the appropriate local health officer has issued a written certificate or permit approving the Edison School of the Arts attendance, or as otherwise permitted by State statute. If the parent or guardian does not agree to remove the child from Edison School of the Arts attendance, the Superintendent will determine, based upon the suspected medical diagnosis, and other relevant information bearing on the issue, whether to exclude the student pending the issuance of a certificate or permit by the local health officer.
- C. If the local health officer issues a certificate or permit authorizing Edison School of the Arts attendance, the Superintendent shall within two (2) school days following the receipt of the certificate or permit, convene a committee whose task shall be to decide (a) whether or not the student may safely be educated within the normal school environment and (b) whether or not the student may require any special procedures or programming. The committee shall be composed of those Edison School of the Arts and medical personnel deemed necessary and appropriate by the Superintendent, but shall include a public health physician and the child's principal.

- D. If, after reviewing the facts, the committee determines that the student's condition poses no significant needs beyond those which can be accommodated in the regular program, the committee shall recommend to the Superintendent that the student continue in the regular Edison School of the Arts program. However, if the committee determines that the student's condition poses significant needs which might indicate an alteration of educational placement or programming, the committee shall recommend to the Superintendent that the student be referred to the IPS Special Education Department for evaluation and other proceedings pursuant to Rule S-1 of the Indiana Department of Education and any applicable local procedures, for the purpose of designing an appropriate educational program which meets the requirements of Rule S-1. In making its determination and recommendations, the committee shall confer both with the student's parent/guardian and with the student's physician. The committee may examine any Edison School of the Arts records in order to ascertain not only the State of the student's health but also the student's behavioral habits including the student's ability to control bodily fluids, etc., and may request such additional medical data which will assist the committee in its deliberations. The Committee shall also consider any applicable published guidelines, including, but not limited to, those provided by the Centers for Disease Control and the Indiana State Board of Health. Unless additional time is approved personally by the Superintendent, the committee's deliberations shall not exceed three (3) days. Homebound instruction or such other temporary educational services may be continued during the deliberations of the committee.
- E. The Superintendent shall implement the decision and recommendations of the committee unless within two (2) school days after receiving the committee's decision, the Superintendent determines in writing that the decision of the committee is not clearly supported by adequate evidence. The Superintendent may send the matter back to the committee requesting it to conduct further investigation for resubmission to the Superintendent.
- F. If the local health officer determines that the student should not be permitted to attend Edison School of the Arts, the student shall be provided with homebound or hospital-based instruction, and shall be referred to the IPS Department of Special Education for evaluation and further proceedings under Rule S-1.
- G. In compliance with the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Superintendent shall take steps to ensure that confidentiality of the records and information being considered is maintained throughout the entire process, and that only those Edison School of the Arts officials with a need to know learn the identity of the affected student as well as any relevant information that needs to be considered in his/her education.
- H. The State regulations concerning "Universal Precautions" (410 IAC 1-4) adopted by the State Board of Health pursuant to State statute, and which prescribe the accepted procedures to be followed in cleaning up, disposing of,

or otherwise dealing with blood and other body fluids, shall be implemented within IPS. The Superintendent shall ensure that all employees are made aware of the requirements to use universal precautions by distributing such written information as is appropriate. Such information shall clearly indicate that the failure of any employee to use prescribed universal precautions shall result in disciplinary action being taken up to and including discharge, if warranted.

- I. The Superintendent is further authorized to initiate such other administrative regulations, procedures and guidelines necessary to fully implement this policy in order to further the purpose and intent of the Board as expressed herein.

