

**Pataula Charter Academy**  
**Spring Creek Charter Academy**

TITLE: Student Immunization Policy

APPROVED BY: The Governing Board

REFERENCES: O.C.G.A 20-2-771

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Certification of Immunization:** certification by a licensed healthcare practitioner under the laws of this state or by an appropriate official of a local board of health, on Georgia Immunization Certificate Form 3231, that a named person has been immunized in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the Department of Public Health.

**Waiver:** an extension from the date of first admittance or of first attendance, whichever is earlier for up to 90 calendar days to provide valid proof of required vaccination.

**POLICY:**

Pataula Charter Academy and Spring Creek Charter Academy shall:

1. Obtain a current and value Certificate of Immunization (Department of Public Health Form 3231) for all students entering the school.
2. Keep, Maintain, and monitor for currency valid Certificate of immunization for all students attending the school.
3. Accept a Certificate of Immunization issued for a child who has not received all required immunizations if the child is in the process of completing the required immunizations with the shortest intervals recommended in the current Official Immunization Schedules and the Certificate of Immunization has a date of expiration that relates to the date the next required immunization is due or the date on which a medical exemption must be reviewed. At that time a new Certificate of Immunization must then be issued and provided to the school within 30 calendar days of the expiration date.
4. Provide a 30 calendar day waiver for new entrants.
5. Provide a 90 calendar day waiver to students entering from out of state, if documentation from the county health department or licensed healthcare practitioner states that an immunization sequence has been started and can be completed within the 90 day waiver period.
6. Not permit a student to attend the school if their parent or guardian fails to provide a valid Certificate of Immunization within the appropriate waiver period of being admitted to the school or who fail to provide renewed certificates within the time allotted after expiration unless the following situations exist.
  - **Medical Exemption:** if a student is found to have any physical disability or medical illness that makes immunization undesirable, a certificate to that effect issued by the local board of health of licensed healthcare practitioner may exempt the child from obtaining a Certificate of Immunization until the disability or medical illness is relieved. There must be an annual review of the medical exemption. The medical exemption may be reissued from year to year until and unless the review reveals cause to believe that immunization or a specific immunization may be accomplished without a danger to the child's health.
  - **Religious Exemption:** if as student wishes to be exempt from immunization on religious grounds, the parent or guardian must furnish the school with a written statement that must:
    - State that their religious beliefs conflict with the immunization requirements
    - be signed and dated by the parent or guardian
    - be notarized, dated, and signed by a Notary.\*\*Such statement does not expire.
7. Make the Certificate of Immunization or evidence of appropriate exemption available during normal business hours for inspection by authorized health authority officials.

8. Forward the Certificate of Immunization or evidence of appropriate exemption to any school the child later attends.
9. Provide immunization information to the Department of Public Health through audits initiated by the Department of Public Health

If the Department of Public Health or local Board of Health determines that an epidemic or threat of an epidemic exists, the authority will notify all schools and facilities in the affected area and may require immunization for those who object on the grounds of religious or alternatively prohibit the attendance of unimmunized children at schools or facilities.

Immunizations required for all students:

Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella (chicken pox).

Immunizations required for grades 6th-12th:

2 doses of Measles, 2 doses of Mumps, and 1 dose of Rubella vaccine or laboratory proof of immunity against each of these three diseases.

2 doses of Varicella vaccine or documentation of disease or laboratory proof of immunity.

1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and 1 dose of MCV (meningococcal) vaccine prior to entering the 7th grade

Any responsible official permitting a student to remain in school in violation of this Code, and any parent or guardian who intentionally does not comply with these requirements, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by fine of not more than \$100.00 or by imprisonment for not more than 12 months.

Reviewed/ Revised	reviewed							
Date/ Initial	7/12/21 KRF							
Board Approved Date	7/26/2021							