

YOUNG SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES POLICY

Purpose

“Although the primary function of schools is to educate our young people, when health and social problems impede students’ ability to learn, schools must assist the students and their families in securing the services they need to succeed by linking students with health and social services.”*

In compliance with the Pennsylvania School Code, Young Scholars Charter School shall request that students submit to appropriate health examinations to ensure each student's health status is at an optimal level and that achievement is not lessened as a result of unresolved or undiagnosed health problems.

For each student transferring to Young Scholars Charter School, Young Scholars Charter School shall request an adequate health record from the transferring school. Students will not be denied the opportunity to enroll based on lack of submission.

Required Examinations and Screenings

*Submission of Physical/Dental Screening records are not to be required to confirm enrollment.

Physical Examinations

In accordance with Section 1402 (f) of the School Code each student shall receive a comprehensive health examination upon original entry and in the sixth grade. A school-based physical exam conducted with consent of the parent/guardian will be accepted in lieu of the private examination. Students in any grade, who have never been examined, or who have no record of an examination shall be part of the mandated physical examination program.

In addition, Pennsylvania Public School Code Section 1402(c) requires the completion of medical questionnaires which are to become part of the student's health record.

Dental Screenings

In accordance with Section 1403 of the Pennsylvania School Code each student shall receive a comprehensive dental examination upon entry to school and seventh (7th) grade. These examinations shall be conducted by the private oral healthcare provider and at the expense of the parent. The dental examination is to be completed within 8 months prior to the start of the school year. The Pennsylvania School Code urges administrators to have as many children privately examined as possible to provide for continuity in the dental care of the child. Children examined privately will be counted in the mandated program.

A school-based dental screening conducted with consent of the parent/guardian will be accepted in lieu of the private examination. Students in any grade, who have never been examined, or who have no record of an examination shall be part of the mandated dental examination program.

Other tests as determined by Pennsylvania Advisory Health Board and mandated by the Pennsylvania Public School Code shall be as follows:

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Vision Screenings

Annual vision tests shall be given, in accordance with Pennsylvania school health mandates, to each student in grades sixth (6th) through eighth (8th) to identify visual impairments that affect the educational, emotional and social development of students. Vision screenings will be conducted by the school nurse or other trained personnel.

Audiometric Screening

Audiometric screening will be administered, in accordance with Pennsylvania school health mandates, to students in seventh (7th) grade. Hearing test shall be conducted by the school nurse or other trained personnel. Hearing test are given to identify students with hearing loss and to refer failures for further evaluation. A hearing test may be administered to any student upon referral.

Scoliosis Screenings

All students in grades sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) shall be screened for scoliosis, in accordance with Pennsylvania school health mandates. The purpose of the screenings is to assess for scoliosis and/or other spinal problems and to implement early interventions for spinal abnormalities. Scoliosis screenings will be conducted by the school nurse, nurse practitioner, school physician or physician assistant.

Growth Screenings

The school nurse or other trained personnel shall conduct growth screenings for all students in grades 6th through 8th. Growth screenings are inclusive of **height and weight measurements** used to monitor growth and development patterns of students and to identify students who may be a nutritional risk or who may have a common nutritional problem. Parents/guardians will be notified of screening results with a recommendation to share findings with the student's health care provider for further evaluation and intervention, if necessary.

Authority

The individual pupil health files and reports of health examinations shall be maintained as a confidential record.

A student who presents a statement signed by his/her parent or guardian that a medical examination is contrary to his/her religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that the student presents a substantial health menace to the health of other persons.

Where it appears to school health officials or teachers that a child deviates from normal growth and development or where school examinations reveal conditions requiring health or dental care, the parent or guardian of the child shall be so informed and a recommendation shall be made that the parent consult a private physician or dentist. The parent shall be required to report to the school the action taken subsequent to such notification.

When the parents or guardians inform the school of financial inability to provide an examination, the school shall advise them of the special educational medical procedures available.

Parents and guardians of students who are to be examined as a part of a school-based program shall be notified of such examinations. The notice shall include the date and location of the examination. Such notice may also include notification that the parent may have the examination conducted privately at the parents' expense and encouragement that the parent do so in the interest of providing continuity in the student's health care; and, notification that the student may

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be exempted from such examination if it is contrary to the parents' religious beliefs.

Required Immunizations

All Grades

In accordance with PA law, the following immunizations will be required for attendance in all grades:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

On the first day of school, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had at least one dose of the above vaccinations or risk exclusion.

- If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child must receive that dose within the first five days of school or risk exclusion. If the next dose is not the final dose of the series, the child must also provide a medical plan (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is not medically appropriate, the child must provide a medical plan (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- The medical plan must be followed or risk exclusion.

7th Grade

In accordance with PA law, the following immunizations will be required for attendance in 7th grade:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) on the first day of 7th grade.
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) on the first day of 7th grade.
- ON THE FIRST DAY OF 7TH GRADE,
- unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

These requirements allow for the following exemptions: medical reason, religious belief, or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction. Even if your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be excluded from school during an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.

The vaccines required for entrance and 7th grade continue to be required in each succeeding school year.

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Delegation of Responsibility

The Principal shall instruct all staff members to observe students continually for conditions that indicate physical defect or disability and to report such conditions promptly to the school nurse.

When the principal receives a report of the existence of a communicable disease in a student's family, the school nurse must be notified.

If the school nurse is not available, the Principal shall notify the CEO. The CEO or Principal shall contact the Department of Public Health and report the name of the pupil, address, grade, last date of attendance, and reported communicable disease.

A school physician, school nurse practitioner, or nurse discovering a student in school with a communicable disease shall notify the principal immediately; the principal shall provide for the reporting of this information as noted above.

The school physician, school nurse practitioner, or nurse shall also report the above cases to the Department of Public Health in order that further instructions regarding the case of the pupil may be given by the Department to the CEO or principal.

A pupil with a communicable disease may not be readmitted to school except upon written receipt of a physician's certificate of recovery or a statement that the illness is not communicable, or upon instruction from the school physician, school nurse practitioner, or nurse.

References

State School Code: Sections 1402, 1402(d), 1403, 1405, 1406, 1409, 1415, 1419
28, Section 23.44, 23.2(e)