

ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2010
REVISED MAY 23, 2011

Descriptor Term:
IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR
SCHOOL ADMISSION

Descriptor Code:
4.2110

Legal References: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431 *et seq.*; G.S. 115C-407.5; 130A-152 to -157, -440 to -443; 143B-216.75; 10A NCAC 41A .0401

Cross References:

Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the board of education requires that all students must meet the eligibility requirements for school admission established by the State and the board, including immunization and health assessments, as well as, all requirements for admission and enrollment set forth in policy 4.2320 School Admission and Enrollment and 4.2100 Age Requirements for Initial Entry. The principal or his/her designee shall maintain on file immunization and health assessment records for all students, and these records may be inspected by officials of the county or state health departments. Each school principal shall file required reports with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction.

A. IMMUNIZATION

Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, within thirty (30) calendar days of his/~~or~~-her first enrollment date, each student must show evidence of immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, red measles, German measles (rubella), mumps, Hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza (Hib), poliomyelitis, varicella, and any other disease as required by law or regulation.

For students entering the sixth grade on or after August 1, 2008, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required if five (5) years or more have passed since the student's last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.

Evidence of immunizations must be shown in the form of a certificate furnished by a licensed physician or by the health department. A student who received immunizations in a state other than North Carolina must present an official certificate that meets the immunizations requirements of G.S. 130A-154(b).

Principals are required to refuse admittance to any child whose parent or guardian does not present a medical certification of proper immunizations within the allotted time. If, following approved medical practice, the administration of a vaccine requires more than thirty (30) calendar days to complete, upon certification of this fact by a physician, additional days may be allowed in order to obtain the required immunizations.

Exceptions to the immunization requirement will be made only for religious reasons or for medical reasons approved by a physician.

B. HEALTH ASSESSMENT/VISION SCREENING

Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, within thirty (30) calendar days of the first day of school entry, all kindergarten students must furnish to the principal a document indicating that the

student has received a health assessment pursuant to G.S. 130A-440. The assessment must include a medical history and physical examination with screening for vision and hearing and, if appropriate, testing for anemia and tuberculosis. The health assessment must be conducted no more than twelve (12) months prior to the date of school entry. Exceptions to the health assessment requirement will be made only for religious reasons.

Vision screening must comply with the vision screening standards adopted by the Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care. Within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the start of the school year, the parent of the child must present to the principal or designee certification that within the past twelve (12) months, the child has obtained a comprehensive eye examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist or has obtained a vision screening conducted by a licensed physician, an optometrist, a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner, a registered nurse, an orthoptist, or a vision screener certified by Prevent Blindness North Carolina. If a child enters the first grade without having been enrolled in a kindergarten program requiring a vision screening, the screening is required at that point.

Children who receive and fail to pass the required vision screening must obtain a comprehensive eye exam conducted by a duly licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist. The provider of the exam must present to the parent a signed transmittal form, which the parent must submit to the school. If a member of the school staff has reason to believe that a child enrolled in kindergarten through third grade is having problems with vision, the staff member may recommend to the child's parent that the child have a comprehensive eye examination. Such notification to the parent must also inform the parent that funds may be available from the Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care to pay providers for the examination, including corrective lenses.

No child will be excluded from attending school for a parent's failure to obtain a comprehensive eye exam. If a parent fails or refuses to obtain a comprehensive eye exam or to provide the certification of a comprehensive eye exam, school officials shall send a written reminder to the parent of required eye exams and shall include information about funds that may be available from the Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care.

C. HOMELESS STUDENTS

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, admissions for homeless students will not be prohibited or delayed due to the student's inability to provide documentation of immunizations or health assessments. The homeless liaison shall work with the student, parent/guardian, school personnel or other agencies to obtain documentation of immunization and/or the health assessment or to arrange for such immunizations and/or assessments in a timely manner.

D. CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES

The board acknowledges that immunization requirements for newly enrolling military children are governed by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Children of military families, as defined in policy 4.0050, Children of Military Families, will have thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment or within such time as reasonably determined by the rules of the Interstate Commission to obtain any required immunization. For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty (30) days or within such time as is reasonably determined under the Interstate Commission.