

The Board of Education requires all students to meet the eligibility requirements for school admission established by the State and the Board, including immunization and health assessments. Each school will maintain immunization and health assessment records on file for all students, and these records may be inspected by officials of the county or state health departments and the Department of Public Instruction. Each school principal will file required reports with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction.

A. IMMUNIZATION

Within 30 calendar days of the first day of attendance, all pupils (including pre-kindergarten students) must show evidence of immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, red measles (rubeola), German measles (rubella), mumps, Hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza (HIP), poliomyelitis, chicken pox and any other disease as required by law or regulation. Such evidence 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 or record that meets the immunization requirements of G.S. 130A-154(b).

Principals are required to deny attendance 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 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.

Exception to the immunization requirement will be made only for religious reasons or for medical reasons approved by a physician in accordance with G.S. 130A-156 and -157.

B. HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Within 30 calendar days of the first day of attendance, 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 hearing and, if appropriate, testing for anemia and tuberculosis. The health assessment must be conducted no more than 12 months prior to the date of school entry. Exception to the health assessment requirement will be made only for religious reasons. Principals are required to deny attendance to any child whose parent or guardian does not present evidence of the health assessment within the allotted time.

C. VISION SCREENING

Every child entering kindergarten shall obtain vision screening in accordance with vision screening standards adopted by the Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care. Within 180 days of the start of the school year, the parent, guardian or custodian of the child must present to the principal or his/her designee certification that within the past 12 months, the child has obtained vision screening conducted by a licensed physician, optometrist, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, orthoptist, or a vision screener certified by Prevent Blindness North Carolina or a comprehensive eye examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. The evidence of health assessment document required under Subsection B above qualifies as certification that the child has obtained the required vision screening. 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 will present to the parent, guardian or custodian a signed transmittal form, which must be submitted 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, guardian or custodian that the child have a comprehensive eye examination. Such notification must also inform the parent, guardian or custodian 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 failure to obtain a comprehensive eye exam. If a parent, guardian or custodian fails or refuses to obtain a comprehensive eye exam or to provide the certification of a comprehensive eye exam, the school will send a written reminder of required eye exams and will include information about funds that may be available from the Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care.

D. HOMELESS STUDENTS

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, admission for homeless students will not be prohibited or delayed due to the inability to provide documentation of immunizations or health assessments. The homeless liaison will 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.

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~~INOCULATION OF STUDENTS~~
IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS
FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION

FILE: JHCB

Legal Reference: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.; G.S. 130A-152 to -157, -440 to -443; 143B-216.75; 10A N.C.A.C. 41A.0401-0406.

APPROVED BY BOARD
AND EFFECTIVE 5/15/89

REVISED _____