

**IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH
REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION**

Policy Code: **4110**

1 The Transylvania County Board of Education (the “board”) requires all students to meet the
2 eligibility requirements for school admission established by the State and the Board, including
3 immunization and health assessments. The principal or designee shall maintain on file
4 immunization and health assessment records for all students, and these records may be inspected
5 by officials of the county or state health departments in accordance with state and federal law.
6 Each school principal shall file required reports with the Department of Health and Human
7 Services and the Department of Public Instruction.
8

9 **A. IMMUNIZATION**

10
11 1. Requirements for Initial Entry
12

13 Within 30 calendar days of his or her first day of attendance in the school system,
14 each student must show evidence of age-appropriate vaccination in accordance
15 with state law and regulation, including the following vaccines as applicable:
16

- 17 a. DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis);
- 18 b. poliomyelitis (polio);
- 19 c. measles (rubeola);
- 20 d. rubella (German measles);
- 21 e. mumps;
- 22 f. Haemophilus influenzae, type b (Hib);
- 23 g. hepatitis B;
- 24 h. varicella (chickenpox); ~~and~~
- 25 i. pneumococcal conjugate (only for children entering school before age 5);
- 26 and
- 27 j. any other vaccine as may be required by law or regulation.

28 The current required vaccination schedule is available from the N.C.
29 Immunization Branch online at <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/>.
30

31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41 2. Additional Requirements

- 42 a. All students entering seventh grade or who have reached age 12,
43

- 44 whichever comes first, are required to receive the following:
- 45
- 46 i. a booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine),
- 47 if they have not previously received it; and
- 48
- 49 ii. the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV).
- 50
- 51 b. All students entering the twelfth grade or who have reached age 17 are
- 52 required to receive a booster dose of MCV.
- 53
- 54 3. Certificate of Immunization
- 55
- 56 a. Evidence of immunizations must be shown in the form of a certificate
- 57 furnished by a licensed physician or by the health department. A student
- 58 who received immunizations in a state other than North Carolina must
- 59 present an official certificate that meets the immunizations requirements
- 60 of G.S. 130A-154(b).
- 61
- 62 b. Principals are required to refuse admittance to any child whose parent or
- 63 guardian does not present a medical certification of proper immunizations
- 64 within the allotted time. If, following approved medical practice, the
- 65 administration of a vaccine requires more than 30 calendar days to
- 66 complete, upon certification of this fact by a physician, additional days
- 67 may be allowed in order to obtain the required immunizations.
- 68
- 69 c. Exceptions to the immunization requirements will be made only for
- 70 religious reasons or for medical reasons approved by a physician pursuant
- 71 to state law and regulation.
- 72

73 **B. HEALTH ASSESSMENT/VISION SCREENING**

74

75 Within 30 calendar days of the first day of school entry, ~~all kindergarten students and,~~

76 ~~beginning with the 2016-17 school year,~~ all students entering public school for the first

77 time, regardless of grade level, must furnish to the principal a form that meets the

78 requirements of state law indicating that the student has received a health assessment

79 pursuant to G.S. 130A-440. A student who fails to meet this requirement will not be

80 permitted to attend school until the required health assessment form has been presented.

81 Such absences will not be considered suspensions, and the student will be given an

82 opportunity to make up work missed during the absence as described below. The

83 principal or designee shall, at the time of enrollment, notify the parent, guardian, or

84 person standing *in loco parentis* that the completed health assessment form is needed on

85 or before the child's first day of attendance. The date the student's health assessment

86 form is received will be recorded in the student’s official record, and the form will be
87 maintained on file in the school.

88
89 The assessment must include a medical history and physical examination with screening
90 for vision and hearing and, if appropriate, testing for anemia and tuberculosis. The health
91 assessment must be conducted no more than 12 months prior to the date of school entry.
92 Exceptions to the health assessment requirement will be made only for religious reasons.

93
94 Vision screening must comply with the vision screening standards adopted by the former
95 Governor’s Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care. Within 180 days of the start
96 of the school year, the parent of the child must present to the principal or designee
97 certification that within the past 12 months, the child has obtained a comprehensive eye
98 examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist or has obtained a vision
99 screening conducted by a licensed physician, an optometrist, a physician assistant, a
100 nurse practitioner, a registered nurse, an orthoptist or a vision screener certified by
101 Prevent Blindness North Carolina.

102
103 Children who receive and fail to pass the required vision screening must obtain a
104 comprehensive eye exam conducted by a duly licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist.
105 The provider of the exam must present to the parent a signed transmittal form, which the
106 parent must submit to the school. If a member of the school staff has reason to believe
107 that a child enrolled in kindergarten through third grade is having problems with vision,
108 the staff member may recommend to the child’s parent that the child have a
109 comprehensive eye examination.

110
111 No child will be excluded from attending school solely for a parent’s failure to obtain a
112 comprehensive eye exam. If a parent fails or refuses to obtain a comprehensive eye exam
113 or to provide the certification of a comprehensive eye exam, school officials shall send a
114 written reminder to the parent of required eye exams.

115
116 Upon request, the teacher(s) of a student subject to an absence from school for failure to
117 provide the health assessment form required by this section shall provide to the student
118 all missed assignments, and to the extent practicable, the materials distributed to students
119 in connection with the assignments. The principal or designee shall arrange for the
120 student to take home textbooks and school-furnished digital devices for the duration of
121 the absence and shall permit the student to take any quarterly, semester, or grading period
122 examinations missed during the absence period.

123
124 **C. HOMELESS STUDENTS**

125
126 Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, admissions for homeless students will not
127 be prohibited or delayed due to the student’s inability to provide documentation of
128 immunizations or health assessments. The homeless liaison shall work with the student,

**IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH
REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION**

Policy Code: **4110**

129 parent/guardian, school personnel or other agencies to obtain documentation of
130 immunization and/or the health assessment or to arrange for such immunizations and/or
131 assessments in a timely manner.
132

133 **D. FOSTER CHILDREN**
134

135 Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, admissions for students in foster care will
136 not be prohibited or delayed due to the student’s inability to provide documentation of
137 immunizations or health assessments. The enrolling school will immediately contact the
138 school last attended by the foster child to obtain any relevant documentation.
139

140 **E. CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES**
141

142 The board acknowledges that immunization requirements for newly enrolling military
143 children are governed by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military
144 Children. Children of military families, as defined in policy 4050, Children of Military
145 Families, will have 30 days from the date of enrollment or within such time as reasonably
146 determined by the rules of the Interstate Commission to obtain any required
147 immunization. For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained
148 within 30 days or within such time as is reasonably determined under the Interstate
149 Commission.
150

151 Legal References: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(1)(E);
152 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431 *et seq.*; G.S. 115C-390.2(1), -
153 407.5; 130A-152 to -157, -440 to -443; ~~143B-216.75~~; 10A N.C.A.C. 41A .0401
154

155 Cross References: Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Homeless Students (policy
156 4125), Attendance (policy 4400)
157

158 Other Resources: N.C. Immunization Branch, available at <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/>
159

160 Adopted: August 17, 2015
161

162 Revised: November 19, 2015; November 21, 2016; September 21, 2020; [DATE]