

# **IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION**

*Policy Code:*

**4110**

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. The principal or 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**

### **1. Requirements for Initial Entry**

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

- a. DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis);
- b. poliomyelitis (polio);
- c. measles (rubeola);
- d. rubella (German measles);
- e. mumps;
- f. Haemophilus influenzae, type b (Hib);
- g. hepatitis B;
- h. varicella (chickenpox); and
- i. any other vaccine as may be required by law or regulation.

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

### **2. Additional Requirements**

All students entering seventh grade or who have reached age 12, whichever comes first, are required to receive the following:

- a. a booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine), if they have not previously received it; and
- b. the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV).

3. Certificate of Immunization
  - a. 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).
  - 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 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.
  - c. Exceptions to the immunization requirements will be made only for religious reasons or for medical reasons approved by a physician pursuant to state law and regulation.

**B. HEALTH ASSESSMENT/VISION SCREENING**

Within 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 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 former Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Vision Care. Within 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 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.

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.

**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 4050, Children of Military Families, will have 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 30 days or within such time as is reasonably determined under the Interstate Commission.

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 N.C.A.C. 41A .0401

Cross References: Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Homeless Students (policy 4125)

Other References: N.C.

Adopted: June 17, 1999

Amended: July 18, 2000

Amended: July 8, 2004

Amended: May 8, 2008

Amended: January 15, 2009

Amended: July 12, 2012

Amended: August 10, 2015

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**REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM**

Immunization Branch, available at <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/>

**FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS**

As the parent(s) or guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ we request that  
(STUDENT NAME)  
our child be exempted from immunization requirements based on our religious beliefs. We  
understand that (s)he may come in contact with classmates with contagious diseases for  
which our child could have received immunization and will hold Cherokee County Schools  
blameless in the event our child contracts a contagious disease for which (s)he could have  
received immunization.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)