

MIDDLETOWN
 AREA
 SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
 AND IMMUNIZATION

ADOPTED: October 14, 1991

REVISED: April 21, 1997

<p>1. Purpose SC 1303a Title 28 Sec. 23.84</p> <p>2. Guidelines</p> <p>SC 1303a(a) Act 15 of 1996</p> <p>Title 28 Sec. 23.83 SC 1303a (c) (d)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">203. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND IMMUNIZATION</p> <p>This policy has been adopted in order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).</p> <p><u>Immunization</u></p> <p>All students shall be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with Pennsylvania statutes, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.</p> <p>No student shall be admitted to school for the first time who has not been immunized against such diseases as are enumerated by the Advisory Health Board and in the manner directed by the State Secretary of Public Health.</p> <p>The implementation of this policy shall be the responsibility of the school nurse or the Director of Pupil Services. In the absence of the school nurse, the building principal or Director of Pupil Services shall check to ascertain the proper immunizations and admit the students. The school nurse shall immediately review the file the next time s/he is in the building. Over the summer months, the above policy will prevail, and the principal shall compile a list of immunization records for the nurse to review prior to the opening of school. No child shall be admitted to school without the proper immunization records or exemptions.</p> <p>All children shall be exempt from the requirements of immunization whose parents or guardians object in writing to such immunization for religious grounds or whose physician certifies that a child's physical condition contraindicates immunization.</p>
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<p>Title 28 Sec. 23.83</p>	<p>Annually, the Superintendent shall review the state standards for immunization of pupils and direct the responsible district personnel (principals, nurses, etc.) accordingly. They, in turn, will inform the parents/guardian of children, prior to their entry to school for the first time, of the requirements of immunization. They also will explain, when necessary, the exemption available for religious or medical reasons and how such exemptions may be claimed.</p>
<p>SC 1402(b) (c) (d) Pol. 209</p>	<p><u>Health Records</u></p> <p>The Middletown Area School District requires that, prior to admission to school for the first time, the parent or guardian shall complete a medical history report form, which shall include information regarding known communicable diseases. The nurse or school physician may use such reports to advise the parent or guardian of the need for further medical care.</p>
<p>Title 28 Sec. 27.2, 27.23</p>	<p>The school nurse(s) shall report the presence of suspected communicable disease to the appropriate local health authority as required by the Department of Health.</p>
<p>SC 1409</p>	<p>All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the child or at the request of the parent or guardian to a physician.</p>
<p>Title 28 Sec. 23.85</p>	<p>As part of the health records, a certificate of immunization for each child enrolled shall be maintained as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and updated as necessary as per direction of the Middletown Area School District Board of School Directors.</p>
<p>Title 28 Sec. 27.71, 27.75</p>	<p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>The following policy shall supplement the Board's Policy 204 on student attendance by establishing guidelines for the attendance of students with communicable diseases.</p> <p>The Board authorizes that students who have been diagnosed by a physician, or are suspected of having a communicable disease by the school nurse, shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the Department of Health for certain specified diseases and infectious conditions.</p>

Students who have been diagnosed by a physician as being absent due to a communicable disease not specifically listed by the Department of Health, or who have been diagnosed as a carrier of such disease, may be excluded for the protection of the school community under the following procedures:

1. The school physician shall make a preliminary recommendation to the district as to the health risks associated with the diagnosed communicable disease. In the event that potential health risks to the school community would be identified by the school physician due to the admission or continued attendance of the student in question, a panel shall be convened to review the medical history and assess the specific health risks to the identified student and to the school community.
2. Prior to the panel's assessment and recommendation as to the health risks, the Superintendent may preliminarily exclude the child from the educational program based upon the school physician's previous recommendation and after the Superintendent has consulted with the student's personal physician as designated by the parents or guardians.
3. The Middletown Area School District's Board of School Directors shall name an administrator to coordinate the district's response to the issue; the administrator shall convene the panel. The panel shall consist of: the Director of Pupil Services, school physician, school nurse, family physician, parents and appropriate health officials. The panel shall make an assessment of the potential for transmission of the communicable disease to the school community and the risks associated with potential infection. The panel shall utilize, as a resource, the Centers for Disease Control Guidelines for the specific disease if available or such other guidelines as may be available and relevant. Within ten (10) days the panel shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent regarding the attendance of the student. The Superintendent shall promptly make a final decision on attendance or alternate placement of the student.

The panel, at the request of the coordinating administrator, shall meet periodically to assess the recommendations as to attendance.