

Health Examinations

To determine the health status of students, facilitate the removal of handicaps to learning, and determine whether special adaptations of the school program may be necessary, the Board of Education recognizes the importance of periodic health examinations conducted according to state health regulations.

In addition to verifying that students have complied with legal requirements for health screenings and immunizations before enrolling in school, and oral health assessments during the first year of school, the Office of Education shall conduct tests for vision, hearing and scoliosis as required by law.

All personnel employed to examine students shall exercise proper care of each student being examined and shall ensure that the examination results are kept confidential.

A parent/guardian may annually file a statement with the principal withholding consent to any physical examination of his/her child. The child shall be exempt, but shall be subject to exclusion from attendance when contagious or infectious disease is reasonably suspected.

The principal of each school shall notify parents/guardians of the rights of students and parents/guardians relating to health examinations.

Vision Tests

Students shall have their vision tested by qualified school personnel.

Students shall have their vision examined upon first enrollment in elementary school and subsequently in grades 2, 5, and 8. However, a student who is tested upon first enrollment or entry into the program in grade 4 or 7 shall not be appraised in the next immediate year. The results of the vision appraisal shall be entered into the student's health record.

All students shall be tested for visual acuity. Color vision shall be tested once and only in male students. External observations of the student's eyes, visual performance and perception shall be done by the school nurse and the classroom teacher.

The above evaluation of a student's vision may be waived at the parent/guardian's request under either of the following conditions:

- 1) The the parent/guardian presents a certificate from a medical doctor/surgeon, physician's assistant, or an optometrist stating the

results of an examination of the student's vision including visual acuity, and, in male children, color vision.

- 2) The parent/guardian files with the principal a written statement that they adhere to the faith or teachings of any well-recognized religious sect, denomination, or organization and, in accordance with its creed, tenets, or principles, depend for healing upon prayer in the practice of their religion.

Defects found as a result of the vision examination shall be reported to the parent/guardian with a request that remedial action be taken to correct or cure the defect. The report of a visual defect, if made in writing, shall be made on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The written report shall not include a referral to any private practitioner. However, the student may be referred to a public clinic or diagnostic and treatment center operated by a public hospital or by the state, county, or city department of public health.

In addition to the vision appraisals described above, the school nurse and/or classroom teacher shall continually and regularly observe students' eyes, appearance, behavior, visual performance, and perception that may indicate vision difficulties

Hearing Tests

The Superintendent or designee shall provide for the administration of hearing tests to students by personnel authorized to conduct such testing pursuant to Education Code 49452 and 49454 and in accordance with the procedures specified in 17 CCR 2951.

Each student shall be given a hearing screening test at the following times:

1. Kindergarten or grade 1
2. Grade 2
3. Grade 5
4. Grade 8
5. Grade 10 or 11
6. Upon first entry into the California public school system

Each student enrolled in a special education program, other than those enrolled because of a hearing problem, shall be given a hearing test when enrolled in the program and every third year thereafter. Hearing tests may be given more frequently as needed, based on the individualized education program team's evaluation of the student.

A follow-up hearing threshold test shall be administered to any student who fails to respond to any of the required frequencies in the screening test or is otherwise determined to need further evaluation.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide written notification of test results to the parents/guardians of any student who fails the hearing tests. When the test results fall within the levels specified in 17 CCR 2951 or there is evidence of pathology, such as an infection of the outer ear, chronic drainage, or a chronic earache, the notification shall include a recommendation that a further medical and audiological evaluation be obtained.

The dates and results of all screening tests and copies of threshold tests shall be included in the student's health records.

The principal or designee shall prepare an annual report of the school hearing testing program, using forms provided by the Department of Health Services, with copies to the Superintendent of Schools.

Scoliosis Screening

The Superintendent shall provide for the screening of students for the condition known as scoliosis. Every female student in the 7th grade and every male student in the 8th grade shall be screened. The screening shall follow the standards established by the California Department of Education and shall be performed by qualified personnel as specified by law.

Persons performing the screening shall not solicit, encourage or advise treatment of the student for scoliosis. The same shall apply to any other condition discovered in the course of the screening for scoliosis.

The parent/guardian of any student suspected of having scoliosis shall be notified. The notice shall include an explanation of scoliosis, the significance of treatment at an early age, and the public services available for treatment. A referral to the appropriate community resources for diagnosis and treatment shall be made.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44871-44879 *Employment qualifications*

48980 *Parental Notifications*

49400-49413 *General powers-school boards (re pupil health)*

STUDENTS

Policy 5141.3(d)

49422 Supervision of health and physical development

49450-49457 Physical examinations (of pupils)

49460-49466 Development of standardized health assessments

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

120325-120380 Immunization against communicable diseases

121475-121520 Tuberculosis tests for pupils

124025-124110 Child Health and Disability Prevention Program

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

590-596 Vision screening

3027 Hearing and vision screening for special education

3028 Audiological screening

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 17

2950-2951 Hearing Tests

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232G Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

1232h Protection of student rights