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Students

Student Health Services

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

School District Medical Advisor

The Eastford Board of Education shall appoint a school district medical advisor and appropriate medical support service personnel including a nurse. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop a set of regulations and forms to ensure that this policy is implemented.

School health efforts shall be directed toward detection and prevention of health problems and to emergency treatment, including the following student health services:

1. Appraising the health status of student and school personnel;
2. Counseling pupils, parents, and others concerning the findings of health examination;
3. Encouraging correction of defects;
4. Helping prevent and control disease;
5. Providing emergency care for student injury and sudden illness;
6. Maintaining school health records.

Health Records

There shall be a health record for each student enrolled in the school district which will be maintained by the school nurse. For the purposes of confidentiality, records will be treated in the same manner as the student's cumulative academic record.

Student health records are covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and are exempt from the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rule. However, it is recognized that obtaining medical information from health care providers will require the school to have proper authorization and to inform parents that such information once released by health care providers is no longer protected under HIPAA but is covered under FERPA.

Regular Health Assessments

Prior to enrollment in kindergarten, each child shall have a health assessment by one of the following medical personnel of the parents or guardians choosing to ascertain whether the student has any physical disability or other health problem tending to prevent him or her from receiving the full benefit of schoolwork and to ascertain whether such schoolwork should be modified in order to prevent injury to the school or to secure for the student a suitable program of education:

1. a licensed physician;
2. an advanced practice registered nurse;
3. a physician's assistant.

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Such health assessment shall include:

1. Physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, and blood pressure;
2. Updating of immunizations required under 10-204 and 10-204a;
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screening;
4. If required by the school medical advisor, testing for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's Anemia;
5. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

Health assessments shall also be required in grades 6 or 7 by a legally qualified physician of each student's parents or guardians own choosing, or by the school medical advisor, or the advisor's designee, to ascertain whether a student has a physical disability or other health problem. Such health assessments shall include:

1. Physical examination which shall include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, and blood pressure;
2. Updating of immunizations required under 10-204 and 10-204a;
3. Vision, hearing, postural, and gross dental screening;
4. If required by the school medical advisor, testing for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's Anemia;
5. Any other information including a health history as the physician believes to be necessary and appropriate.

A child will not be allowed, as the case may be, to begin or continue in district schools unless health assessments are performed as required. Students transferring into the district must provide evidence of required Connecticut vaccinations, immunizations, and health assessments at enrollment and prior to school attendance.

Health assessment will be provided by the school medical advisor or the advisor's designee without charge to all students whose parents or guardians meet the eligibility requirement of free and reduced priced meals under the National School Lunch Program or for free milk under the special milk program.

Health assessment results and recommendations signed by the examining physician or authorized medical personnel shall be recorded on forms provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education and kept on file in the school the student attends. Upon written authorization from the student's parent or guardian, original cumulative health records shall be sent to the chief administrative officer of the school district to which such student moves, and a true copy of the student's cumulative health records maintained as well as the student's academic records. The Superintendent of Schools, or designee, shall notify parents of any health-related problems

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detected in health assessments and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that further testing and treatment is provided, including advice on obtaining such required testing or treatment.

Students who are in violation of Board requirements for health assessments and immunizations will be excluded from school after appropriate parental notice and warning.

Vision Screening

All students in grades K-6 will be screened using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening, by the school nurse or school health aide. Additional vision screening will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student in question. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education and the Superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any defect of vision with a brief statement describing such defect.

As necessary, special education provisions shall be made for students with handicapping conditions.

Hearing Screening

All students will be screened for possible hearing impairments in grades K-3, grade 5 and grade 8. Additional audiometric screening will be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education and the superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any defect of hearing, with a brief statement describing such defect.

As necessary, special education provisions shall be made for students with handicapping conditions.

Postural Screening

The school nurse will screen all students in grades 5 through 8 inclusive for scoliosis or other postural problems. Additional postural screening will also be conducted in response to appropriate requests from parents/guardians or professionals working with the student. Results will be recorded in the student's health record on forms supplied by the Connecticut State Board of Education and the superintendent shall cause a written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of each student found to have any postural defect or problem, with a brief statement describing such defect.

As necessary, special education provisions shall be made for students with handicapping conditions.

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Dental

A program of dental health is taught by the classroom teachers or nurse. A weekly “swish” fluoride program is offered to all students in all grades and is under the supervision of the nurse.

Tuberculin Testing

In addition to tuberculin testing required by the school district medical advisor as part of regular student health assessments, all new students, including preschool students, will be required to have at least one test for tuberculosis prior to entry in district schools.

Immunizations/Vaccinations

No student will be allowed to enroll in any program operated as part of the district schools without adequate immunization against the following diseases:

1. Measles
2. Rubella
3. Poliomyelitis
4. Diphtheria
5. Tetanus
6. Pertussis
7. Mumps
8. Hemophilus influenza type B
9. Hepatitis B
10. Varicella (chickenpox)
11. Any other disease for which a vaccine is required by Section 19a-7f of Connecticut General Statutes

Before entering the seventh grade, each child shall show proof of having received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine or serologic evidence of infection with measles.

Students entering the eighth grade must show proof of 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine or serologic evidence of infection.

Immunization Clinics

Clinics for the required school immunizations may be offered at school at the direction of the school medical advisor.

Students shall be exempt from the appropriate provisions of this policy when:

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1. They present a certificate from a physician or local health agency stating that initial immunizations have been given and additional immunizations are in process under guidelines and schedules specified by the Commissioner of Health Services; or
2. They present a certificate from a physician stating that in the opinion of such physician, immunization is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of such child; or
3. They present a statement from their parents or guardians that such immunizations would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child; or
4. In the case of measles, mumps, or rubella, present a certificate from a physician or from the Director of Health in such child's present or previous town of residence, stating that the child has had a confirmed case of such disease; or
5. In the case of hemophilus influenza type B has passed his or her fifth birthday; or
6. In the case of pertussis, has passed his or her sixth birthday.

The school nurse will report to the local Director of Health any occurrence of State of Connecticut defined reportable communicable diseases.

Health Assessments/Interscholastic Sports Program

Any student participating in an interscholastic sports program must have a health assessment, within one year prior to the first training session for the sport or sports. After the initial examination, repeat examinations are required every thirteen months. Each participant in a sport program must complete a health questionnaire before participating in each sport.

Parents are expected to use the services of their private physician. If a student is unable to obtain a health assessment from his/her personal physician for financial or other reasons, an examination can be arranged with the school medical advisor. Health assessment results shall be recorded on forms provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education, signed by the examining physician, school medical advisor or advisor's designee, filed in the student's health folder, and maintained up to date by the school nurse.

Coaches and physical education staff shall insure appropriate monitoring of an athlete's physical condition.

Communicable Disease

The school medical advisor shall take steps to ensure compliance with the health code established by the Public Health Council in excluding or readmitting pupils or teachers or other school employees suspected of being ill or having a communicable disease. The school medical advisor with the help of the Director of Health will interpret to teachers and the school nurse factors dealing with communicable disease control.

The school nurse is responsible for reporting any infections or suspected communicable diseases to the local health department. Forms should be available in each school health office.

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Each school medical advisor shall make a prompt examination of all pupils referred to him/her by the school nurse, teacher, principal, or superintendent. The physician will interpret to those parties concerned and parents his/her findings with his/her recommendations as to how the child will be cared for and what provisions, if any, should be made at the school for the care and welfare of the pupil.

Each school medical advisor shall also make examinations of teachers, janitors and other employees of the Board of Education when requested by the Board of Education or when he/she feels it is necessary for the protection of the health of the pupils (P.L. 10-107).

The school nurse should refer to the school medical advisor any questions she might have pertaining to the physical and emotional well-being of a pupil.

* The above communicable disease category shall be expanded to include, but not be confined to AIDS/ARC, CMV, Hepatitis B, Herpes Simplex.

Absences from School

When necessary, the school nurse is responsible for the follow-up of children absent from school because of extended illness or injury but will not assume the function of attendance officer. Teachers will refer absences to the principal who will refer health problems to the nurse.

Prior to making a home visit, where feasible, the nurse should consult with the teacher or principal to obtain all available background information.

Student Medical Care at School

Student medical problems and emergencies are outlined in Categories I through V of the First Aid Standing Orders for School Personnel. School personnel are responsible for the immediate care necessary for a student whose sickness or injury occurs on the school premises during school hours or in school-sponsored and supervised activities. Depending upon specific circumstances, Category V issues may also be considered emergencies by attending school personnel.

Schools shall maintain a file of emergency information cards for each pupil. If a child's injury requires immediate care, the parent or guardian will be called by telephone by the nurse, the building principal, or other personnel designated by the principal, and advised of the student's condition. When immediate medical or dental attention is indicated, and when parents or guardians cannot be reached, the student will be transported to the nearest hospital unless otherwise indicated on the student's Emergency Information Card. In this event, the family physician/dentist and school district medical advisor will be notified of school district actions.

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- (cf. 5125.11 – Health/Medical Records-HIPAA)
- (cf. 5142 – Student Safety)
- (cf. 5141.4 – Child Abuse and Neglect)
- (cf. 5141.5 – Suicide Prevention)
- (cf. 6142.1 – Family Life and Sex Education)
- (cf. 6145.2 – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics)
- (cf. 6171 – Special Education)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-203 Sanitation
- 10-204 Vaccination
- 10-204a Required Immunizations
- 10-204c Immunity from Liability
- 10-205 Appointment of School Medical Advisors
- 10-206 Health Assessments
- 10-206a Free Health Assessments
- 10-207 Duties of Medical Advisors
- 10-208 Exemption from Examination or Treatment
- 10-208a Physical Activity of Student Restricted; Boards to honor notice
- 10-209 Records not to be public (as amended by P.A. 03-211)
- 10-210 Notice of Disease to be given to Parent/Guardian
- 10-212 School Nurses and Nurse Practitioners
- 10-212a Administration of Medicines by School Personnel
- 10-213 Dental Hygienists
- 10-214 Vision, audiometric and postural screening: When required; notification of parents re defects; record of results. (As amended by P.A. 96-229 An Act Concerning Scoliosis Screening)
- 10-214a Eye Protective Devices
- 10-214b Compliance report by local or regional board of education
- 10-217a Health services for children in private nonprofit schools. Payments from the state, towns in which children reside and private nonprofit schools. Department of Public Health, Public Health Code – 10-204a-2a, 10-204a-3a and 10-204a-4

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93-568, codified at 20 U.S.C. 1232g).

42 U.S.C. 1320d-1320d-8, P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING HEALTH ASSESSMENTS/SCREENINGS AND ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

I. Health Assessments:

The Eastford Board of Education (the “Board”) requires each student enrolled in the Eastford Public Schools (the “District”) to undergo health assessments as mandated by state law. The purpose of such health assessments shall be to ascertain whether a student has any physical disability tending to prevent the student from receiving the full benefit of schoolwork and to ascertain whether schoolwork should be modified in order to prevent injury to the student or to secure a suitable program of education for the student. Such health assessments must be conducted by one of the following qualified providers for health assessments: (1) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine; (2) an advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse, who is licensed under state statute; (3) a physician assistant, who is licensed under state statute; (4) the school medical advisor; or (5) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at any military base. The Board will provide written prior notice of the health assessments required under these administrative regulations to the parent or guardian of each student subject to assessment. The parent or guardian shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to be present during such assessment or the parent or guardian may provide for such assessment. No health assessment shall be made of any public school student unless it is made in the presence of the parent or guardian or in the presence of another school employee. Any student who fails to obtain the health assessments required by these administrative regulations may be denied continued attendance in the District.

II. Health Assessments Required:

Prior to enrollment in the District, each student must undergo a health assessment, which shall include:

- (a) a physical examination which includes hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure, and a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma. The assessment form shall include (1) a check box for the provider conducting the assessment, to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (2) screening questions relating to appropriate public health concerns to be answered by the parent or guardian, and (3) screening questions to be answered by such provider;
- (b) an updating of immunizations as required by state law;
- (c) vision, hearing, speech and gross dental screenings;

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(d) such other information, including health and developmental history, as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate.

The pre-enrollment assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia, and tests for lead levels in the blood if, after consultation with the school medical advisor and the local health department, the Board determines that such tests are necessary. Such tests must be conducted by a registered nurse acting pursuant to the written order of a physician, or physician's assistant, licensed under state law, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed under state law.

Each student enrolled in the District must undergo a health assessment prior to grade seven and prior to grade nine, which shall include:

- (a) a physical examination which includes hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure, and a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma as defined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to subsection (c) of section 19a-62a of the Connecticut General Statutes. The assessment form shall include (1) a check box for the provider conducting the assessment, to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (2) screening questions relating to appropriate public health concerns to be answered by the parent or guardian, and (3) screening questions to be answered by such provider;
- (b) an updating of immunizations as required by state law;
- (c) vision, hearing, postural and gross dental screenings;
- (d) such other information, including health and developmental history, as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate.

The grade six/seven and grade nine/ten assessments shall also include tests for tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia if, after consultation with the school medical advisor and the local health department, the Board determines that such tests are necessary. Such tests must be conducted by a registered nurse acting pursuant to the written order of a physician, or physician's assistant, licensed under state law, or of an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed under state law.

The Board shall provide such assessments free of charge to students whose parents or guardians meet the eligibility requirements for free and reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program or for free milk under the special milk program.

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III. Oral Health Assessments:

- A. Prior to enrollment in the District, prior to grade seven and grade nine, the Board shall request that each student undergo an oral health assessment. Such oral health assessments must be conducted by one of the following qualified providers for oral health assessments: (1) a dentist licensed under state law; (2) a dental hygienist licensed under state law; (3) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine trained in conducting oral health assessments as a part of a training program approved by the Commissioner of Public Health; (4) a physician assistant licensed under state law and trained in conducting oral health assessments as part of a training program approved by the Commissioner of Public Health; or (5) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under state statute and trained in conducting oral health assessments as part of a training program approved by the Commissioner of Public Health.
- B. The oral health assessment identified in subsection A above shall include a dental examination by a dentist, or a visual screening and risk assessment for oral health conditions by a dental hygienist, legally qualified practitioner of medicine, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse. The assessment form shall include a check box for the qualified provider conducting the assessment to indicate any low, moderate, or high risk factors associated with any dental or orthodontic appliance, saliva, gingival condition, visible plaque, tooth demineralization, carious lesions, restorations, pain, swelling or trauma.
- C. No oral health assessment shall be made of any public school student unless the parent or guardian of the student consents to such assessment and such assessment is made in the presence of the parent or guardian or in the presence of another school employee. The parent or guardian shall be provided with prior written notice of an oral health assessment and be provided with a reasonable opportunity to opt the child out of such assessment, or the parent or guardian may provide for such oral health assessment.
- D. If the Board hosts a free oral health assessment event where qualified providers (identified in subsection A above) perform oral health assessments of children attending a public school, the Board shall notify the parents and guardians of such children of the event in advance and provide an opportunity for parents and guardians to opt their child(ren) out of such event. The Board shall infer parent/guardian consent for each child whose parent or guardian did not opt the child out of the free oral health assessment event and shall provide such child with a free oral health assessment; however, such child shall not receive dental treatment of any kind unless the child's parent or guardian provides informed consent for such treatment.

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- E. Any student who fails to obtain an oral health assessment requested by the Board shall not be denied enrollment or continued attendance in the District.

IV. Screenings Required:

The Board will provide annually to each student enrolled in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive, a vision screening. Such vision screening may be performed using a Snellen chart or an equivalent screening device, or an automated vision screening device. The Superintendent shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each student (1) who is found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing the defect or disease and a recommendation that the student be examined by an optometrist or ophthalmologist licensed pursuant to state law, and (2) who did not receive such vision screening, with a brief statement explaining why such student did not receive such vision screening.

The Board will provide annually to each student enrolled in kindergarten and grades one and three through five, inclusive, audiometric screening for hearing. The Superintendent shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each student (1) who is found to have any impairment or defect of hearing, with a brief statement describing the impairment or defect, and (2) who did not receive an audiometric screening for hearing, with a brief statement explaining why such student did not receive an audiometric screening for hearing.

The Board will provide postural screenings for (1) each female student in grades five and seven, and (2) each male student in grade eight or nine. The Superintendent shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each student (A) who evidences any postural problem, with a brief statement describing such evidence, and (B) who did not receive a postural screening, with a brief statement explaining why such student did not receive such postural screening.

All the screenings required under these administrative regulations will be performed in accordance with regulations applicable to such screenings as adopted by the State Board of Education.

V. Assessment/Screening Results:

The results of each assessment and screening required or requested by these administrative regulations shall be recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of Education. Each qualified provider performing health assessments or oral health assessments under these administrative regulations shall sign each form and any recommendations concerning a student shall be in writing. Assessment/screening forms shall be included in the cumulative health record of each student, and they shall be kept on file in the school attended by the student. If a student transfers to another school

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district in Connecticut, the student's original cumulative health record shall be sent to the chief administrative officer of the new school district and a true copy retained by the Board. For a student leaving Connecticut, a copy of the records, if requested, should be sent and the original maintained.

Appropriate school health personnel shall review the results of each assessment and screening. If the reviewing school health personnel judge that a student is in need of further testing or treatment, the Superintendent shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of such student and shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that such further testing or treatment is provided. Reasonable efforts shall include determination of whether the parent or guardian has obtained the necessary testing or treatment for the student, and, if not, advising the parent or guardian how such testing or treatment may be obtained. The results of such further testing or treatment shall be recorded, kept on file and reviewed by appropriate school health personnel in the same manner as the results of the health assessments and screenings required or requested under these administrative regulations.

The District shall report to the local health department and the Department of Public Health, on a triennial basis, the total number of children per school and on a district-wide basis having a diagnosis of asthma (1) at the time of public school enrollment, (2) in grade six or seven, and (3) in grade nine or ten. The report shall contain the asthma information collected as required under Section II of these administrative regulations and shall include information regarding each diagnosed child's age, gender, race, ethnicity, and school.

VI. Exemption:

Nothing in these administrative regulations shall be construed to require any student to undergo a physical or medical examination or treatment, or be compelled to receive medical instruction, if the parent or legal guardian of such student or the student, if the student is an emancipated minor or is eighteen (18) years of age or older, notifies the teacher or principal or other person in charge of such student in writing that the student objects on religious grounds to such physical or medical examination or treatment or medical instruction.

VII. Other Non-Emergency Invasive Physical Examinations and Screenings:

- A. In addition to the screenings listed above, the District may, from time to time, require students to undergo additional non-emergency, invasive physical examination(s)/screening(s).
- B. A non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening is defined as:

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any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts; or

1. any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening; and
 2. is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
 3. is not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.
- C. If the district elects to conduct any such examinations, then, at the beginning of the school year, the administration shall give direct notice to parents of affected students of the district's intent to conduct the non-emergency invasive physical examination(s) and/or screening(s) described in this subsection. Such notice shall include the specific or approximate dates during the school year of the administration of such non-emergency invasive physical examination(s)/screening(s).
- D. Upon request, the administration shall permit parents or students over the age of eighteen (18) (or emancipated minors) to opt out of participation in the non-emergency invasive physical examination(s)/screening(s) described in this subparagraph.

VIII. School Representative to Receive Information Concerning Health Assessments:

The Board designates the Eastford School Nurse as the representative for receipt of reports from health care providers concerning student health assessments and oral health assessments.

Legal References:

State Law:

Connecticut General Statutes:

§ 10-206	Health assessments
§ 10-206a	Free health assessments
§ 10-206d	Oral health assessments
§ 10-208	Exemption from examination or treatment
§ 10-209	Records not be public. Provision of reports to schools

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§ 10-214 Vision, audiometric and postural screenings: When required; notification of parents re defects; record of results

Public Act. No. 21-95, “An Act Concerning Assorted Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes.”

Public Act No. 21-121, “An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health’s Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes.”

State of Connecticut Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, Cumulative Health Records Guidelines (Revised Jan. 2012), https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/School-Nursing/Publications/CHR_guidelines.pdf

Federal Law:

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, Public Law 114-95, at 20 U.S.C. §§ 1232h(c)(2)(C)(iii) and 1232h(c)(6)(B).

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING IMMUNIZATIONS

I. Immunization Requirements

In accordance with state law and accompanying regulations, the Eastford Public Schools (the "District") requires each child to be protected by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus influenzae type B, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, varicella, pneumococcal diseases, meningococcal disease and any other vaccine required by the schedule for active immunization as determined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-7f, before being permitted to enroll in any program or school under its jurisdiction.

Among other requirements, before being permitted to enter seventh grade, the District requires each child to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease. The District further requires each child to receive a second immunization against measles and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) before being permitted to enter seventh grade.

Further, each child must have received two doses of immunization against varicella before being permitted to enter kindergarten and seventh grade, and each child must have received two doses of immunization against rubella and mumps before being permitted to enter grades kindergarten through twelve.

By January 1 of each year, children aged 24-59 months enrolled in the District's preschool program must show proof of receipt of at least one dose of influenza vaccine between August 1 and December 31 of the preceding year. All children aged 24-59 months who have not received vaccination against influenza previously must show proof of receipt of two doses of the vaccine the first influenza season that they are vaccinated. Children seeking to enroll in the District's preschool program between January 1 and March 31 are required to receive the influenza vaccine prior to being permitted to enter the program. Children who enroll in the preschool program after March 31 of any given year are not required to meet the influenza vaccine requirement until the following January.

Exemption from the applicable requirements of these administrative regulations shall be granted to any child who, before being permitted to enroll:

- (1) presents a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or local health agency stating that initial immunizations have been given to such child and additional immunizations are in process
 - (A) under guidelines and schedules specified by the Commissioner of Public Health; or

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- (B) in the case of a child enrolled in a preschool program or other prekindergarten program who, prior to April 28, 2021, was exempt from the applicable immunization requirements upon presentation of a statement that such immunizations would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardian of such child, as such additional immunizations are recommended, in a written declaration, in a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, for such child by a physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse. Such statement of religious beliefs shall be acknowledged by a judge of a court of record or a family support magistrate, a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a town clerk, a notary public, a justice of the peace, an attorney admitted to the bar of this state, or a school nurse; or
- (2) presents a certificate, in a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to Section 7 of Public Act No. 21-6, from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse stating that in the opinion of a such physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse such immunization is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of such child; or
- (3) in the case of measles, mumps, or rubella, presents a certificate from a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse or from the Director of Health in such child's present or previous town of residence, stating that the child has had a confirmed case of such disease; or
- (4) in the case of haemophilus influenzae type B, has passed such child's fifth birthday; or
- (5) in the case of pertussis, has passed such child's sixth birthday.

II. Exemptions Based on Religious Beliefs

A. Children Enrolled in Kindergarten Through Twelfth Grade On or Before April 28, 2021

The immunization requirements set forth in Section I of these administrative regulations **shall not apply** to any child who is enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade on or before April 28, 2021 if:

1. such child presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, from the parents or guardians of such child that such immunization is contrary

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to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardians of such child, and

2. such statement was acknowledged by a judge of a court of record or a family support magistrate, a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a town clerk, a notary public, a justice of the peace, an attorney admitted to the bar of the State of Connecticut, or a school nurse.

B. Students Who Transfer from Another Public or Private School in Connecticut

The immunization requirements set forth in Section I of this policy **shall not apply** to any student who:

1. transfers to the District from another public or private school in Connecticut, and
2. was enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade in the other public or private school on or before April 28, 2021, and
3. presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, from the parents or guardians of such child that such immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardians of such child, and such statement was acknowledged by a judge of a court of record or a family support magistrate, a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a town clerk, a notary public, a justice of the peace, an attorney admitted to the bar of the State of Connecticut, or a school nurse.

C. Children Enrolled in Preschool or Prekindergarten Prior to April 28, 2021

Any child who is enrolled in a preschool program or other prekindergarten program prior to April 28, 2021 who:

1. presented a statement, prior to April 28, 2021, from the parents or guardians of such child that such immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of such child or the parents or guardians of such child, and
2. such statement was acknowledged by a judge of a court of record or a family support magistrate, a clerk or deputy clerk of a court having a seal, a town clerk, a notary public, a justice of the peace,

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an attorney admitted to the bar of the State of Connecticut, or a school nurse, but

3. did not present a written declaration from a physician, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse stating that additional immunizations are in process as recommended by such physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, rather than as recommended under guidelines and schedules specified by the Commissioner of Public Health **shall comply** with the

immunization requirements provided for in Section I of these administrative regulations on or before September 1, 2022, or not later than fourteen (14) days after transferring to a program operated by a school under the jurisdiction of the District, whichever is later.

In accordance with state law, the Eastford Board of Education (“Board”) and the District shall not be liable for civil damages resulting from an adverse reaction to a non-defective vaccine required to be administered by state law.

If the parents or guardians of any child are unable to pay for any required immunization, the expense of such immunization shall, upon the recommendation of the Board, be paid by the town of the child’s residence.

The District designates the Eastford School Nurse as the representative for receipt of reports from health care providers concerning student immunizations.

The current required immunizations for elementary (including preschool), middle and high school students can be found at: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/School-Nursing/Forms/Immunization_Requirements.pdf.

In implementing these regulations, the District shall consider state guidance and supporting documents and comply with applicable law.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

§ 10-204a Required immunizations

§ 10-204c Immunity from liability

Public Act No. 21-6, “An Act Concerning Immunizations”

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies

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§ 10-204a-2a Adequate Immunization

Letter to Superintendents of Schools et al. from Connecticut State Departments of Public Health and Education, *Reinstatement of Prekindergarten and Kindergarten School Immunization Entry Requirement for Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib) Vaccine*, June 25, 2010.

Letter to Superintendents of Schools et al. from Connecticut State Departments of Public Health and Education, *Changes in the Immunization Requirements for School Entry*, March 15, 2011.

State Department of Education, Guidance Regarding Public Act 21-6, “An Act Concerning Immunizations,” May 25, 2021.