

# POLICY

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## **HEAD/BRAIN INJURIES AND CONCUSSIONS**

The Board of Education recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports, other recreational activities and physical education classes. The Board acknowledges the risk of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

Consistent with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) “Guidelines for Concussion Management in the School Setting” and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), the District will utilize recommended guidelines, procedures and other pertinent information to inform and educate coaches, faculty, support staff, youth athletes, and parents/guardians of the nature and risk of concussions or head injuries, including the dangers associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

The Board of Education further recognizes that students who have been diagnosed with a concussion not only require physical rest, but may require cognitive rest recovery. A student may require significant short-term program modifications without the benefit of an IEP or 504 Plan already in place.

Accordingly, the Massena Central School District will adhere to all state and federal laws governing the rights of students with special medical needs and will take reasonable measures to work with both the health care provider and the family to ensure the health and safety of all students including children with concussion.

This policy encompasses any physician documented traumatic brain injury. Reasonable measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Providing New York State Education Department approved training on concussions and concussion management every 2 years for athletic coaches, physical education teachers, nurses and athletic trainers.
- Providing parents, guardians and students education about prevention strategies, the risks of head injury associated with sports, proper use of personal protective equipment and devices, and importance of reporting injuries promptly to an adult who can help them. Education will also address the aftermath of any injury to the head, inside or outside of school, and the importance of cognitive and physical rest during healing.
- Have a standing emergency medical protocol for athletic staff created by the district physician; See Procedure 7518P.
- Have a standing emergency protocol for nursing staff created by the district physician; See Procedure 7518P.1

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- Have a standing emergency protocol for teachers and club/activity advisors created by the district physician: See Procedure 7518P.2.
- Maintain a concussion management team in the district as selected by the superintendent (or designate) to include key personnel in academics, physical education, athletics, and health services to oversee and implement concussion management protocols at each building level.
- Assure appropriate building accommodations are in place within a reasonable degree of medical certainty as a student is healing which may include testing accommodations not previously specified, homework and project extensions, incompletes without typical penalties, and other short term academic accommodations that will not last long enough to warrant an IEP or 504 Plan.

Furthermore, the District will implement in its concussion management protocol standardized measures of assessment of injured students and adherence to a return to mental and physical exertion on a progressive program consistent with guidelines from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and in accordance with any laws governing the State of New York.

Adoption Date: 1/17/19