

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

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Philosophy

In accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware and with the policies and regulations of the State Board of Education, all children in the Seaford School District have a right to a free and appropriate education. The Seaford Board of Education recognizes the importance of providing that education in a safe and healthy environment.

Immunizations

1. In accordance with 14 Delaware Code, Section 131 (a) (1) c, a principal shall not permit a child to enter into school without acceptable evidence of immunizations. The parents/guardians shall be notified of this requirement in writing.
2. If, after conditional admission, the child does not complete the series of required immunizations according to the Division of Public Health's recommended schedule, the principal shall notify the parent/guardian in writing that the child will be immediately excluded from school.
3. Exemptions from immunization may be granted by the principal in accordance with the following provisions of 14 Delaware Code, Section 131:
 - a. when the parents/guardians, supported by affidavit, reject the concept of immunization because of individual religious beliefs; or
 - b. when the principal or his/her designee is in receipt of a written statement from a physician stating that the child should not receive the prescribed immunization(s) because of the reasonable certainty of a reaction detrimental to the child. (A history of clinical illness of measles or rubella will not be accepted as cause for exemption.)

Physical Examinations

1. Students entering the Seaford schools for the first time shall provide acceptable evidence of a physical examination within the previous year from a physician or public health agency. The parents/guardians shall be notified of this requirement in writing.
2. The principal may conditionally admit a child to school if he/she has a verified medical appointment for a physical examination.
3. The principal may conditionally admit a child pending receipt of the child's records from a previous school.

Communicable Diseases

1. A systematic effort is to be made to protect students against preventable diseases which might be acquired in connection with the school program.
2. A child who has a communicable disease or infestation may be excluded from school and may be readmitted only on the basis of a certificate from a physician or on the advice of the school nurse, as appropriate.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), AIDS Related Complex (ARC), or HTLV-III Antibody

It shall be the policy of the Seaford Board of Education to comply with the following policy of the State Board of Education regarding students with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), AIDS Related Complex (ARC), or HTLV-III antibody:

1. A child entering grades kindergarten through 12 with AIDS/ARC or HTLV-III antibody shall be permitted to attend school unless the child:
 - a. has open sores that cannot be covered;
 - b. demonstrates physically aggressive behavior with a documented history of biting or harming others;
 - c. is, in the opinion of his/her physician, at risk from communicable diseases present in the school or has other medically related problems.

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2. Any removal of a child with AIDS/ARC or HTLV-III antibody by the school district will be reviewed by a State Advisory Panel appointed by the State Department of Education and consisting of the State Health Officer, State Epidemiologist, a representative from the Medical Society of Delaware, a representative from the State Department of Education, a school nurse, and a school superintendent. The local district will submit to the panel:
 - a. evidence that the child exhibits or manifests the symptoms which justify exclusion;
 - b. a current report from the child's personal physician.
3. The child shall be readmitted to school when the child's physician verifies to the State Advisory Panel that the condition for which removal occurred has been corrected or has abated, and the Panel determines the child can return to school.
4. The school nurse, in cooperation with the building principal, shall function as:
 - a. the liaison with the child's physician and the State Advisory Panel
 - b. the advocate for the AIDS/ARC child in the school (i.e., assist in problem resolution, answer questions)
 - c. the coordinator of services provided by other staff.
5. A school-aged child with AIDS/ARC who is removed for reasons stated in item #1 shall be provided with an appropriate alternative education according to already established procedures.
6. Pre-school children with AIDS/ARC or HTLV-III antibody will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Advisory Panel to determine if the special program for which the child has applied is feasible.
7. Dissemination of the knowledge that a child has AIDS/ARC or HTLV-III antibody is subject to state and federal privacy laws and regulations.
8. Routine and standard procedures for handling all body fluids will be established by the State Department of Education and the Division of Public Health and will be utilized in every school. These procedures will be found in the School Nurse Handbook, School Bus Drivers Handbook, and Handbook for School Food Services.
9. Educational programs about AIDS/ARC infection, mode of transmission, care of body fluids, and good hand washing techniques shall be offered to all school personnel.

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