

- Required
- Local
- Notice

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

In accordance with law, BOCES shall provide vision, hearing, dental inspection and scoliosis screening. Problems shall be referred to the parent(s) or guardian(s) who shall be encouraged to have their family physician/dentist provide appropriate care.

In order to participate in a BOCES program a student’s health certificate must be submitted within 30 calendar days after entering a BOCES program. The examination, which must conform to state requirements, must have been conducted no more than 12 months before the first day of the school year in question. If the health certificate cannot be provided for the student, BOCES shall provide a physical examination by a licensed provider. A request for exemption from the physical examination, or the requirement to provide a health certificate, must be made in writing to the BOCES principal or designee, who may require documents supporting the request. The only basis for exemption is a claim that the physical examination is in conflict with the parent or guardian’s genuine and sincere religious belief.

In addition, students shall provide a dental health certificate when they enroll in a BOCES program and in accordance with the same schedule as the health certificate.

A permanent student health record shall be part of a student's cumulative BOCES record and follow the student from grade to grade along with his/her academic record. This record folder shall be maintained by the school nurse.

BOCES shall also provide emergency care for students if needed. Each school building in the BOCES shall include in its emergency plan a protocol for responding to health care emergencies, including anaphylaxis and head injury. Parents/guardians shall be notified of any emergency medical situation as soon as is practicable.

Communicable Diseases

It is the responsibility of the Board to provide all students with a safe and healthy school environment. To meet this responsibility, BOCES shall exclude students with contagious and infectious diseases, as defined in the Public Health Law, from attendance at BOCES, during periods of contagion for time periods indicated on a chart developed by the Medical Director.

It is the responsibility of the District Superintendent, working through BOCES health personnel, to enforce this policy and to contact the county or local health department when a reportable case of a communicable disease is identified in the student or staff population.

Administering Medication to Students

Neither the Board nor BOCES staff members shall be responsible for the diagnosis or treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication to a student during school hours shall be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student, or the student would not be able to attend BOCES if the medicine were not made available to him/her during school hours, or where it is done pursuant to law requiring accommodation to a student's special medical needs (e.g., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). "Medication" means all medicines prescribed by an authorized medical provider.

Before any medication shall be administered to or by any student during school hours, the Board requires:

1. the written request of the parent(s) or guardian(s), which shall give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication; and
2. the written order of the prescribing authorized medical provider, which must include the purpose of the medication, the dosage, the time at which or the special circumstances under which medication shall be administered, the period for which medication is prescribed, and the possible side effects of the medication; and
3. that in order for a student to carry and use a rescue inhaler, an epinephrine auto-injector, insulin, or glucagon and associated testing supplies, written permission must be provided both by the parent and the prescribing authorized medical provider in accordance with state law and regulation.

Students are allowed to carry and apply parentally provided sunscreen without a prescription from a medical provider, only if the sunscreen is FDA approved and the sunscreen is not treating a medical condition. Parents must provide BOCES with written permission for students to use sunscreen.

Permission slips and medical orders shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

In addition, in accordance with Education Law Section 919, the BOCES shall make a nebulizer available on-site in BOCES school buildings where nursing services are provided. Students with a patient-specific order, who require inhaled medications, shall have access to the nebulizer. BOCES shall ensure that it is maintained in working order.

In conjunction with the nebulizer, BOCES shall stock albuterol in the form of liquid and MDI (metered dose inhaler) for students who are in need of emergency dosing when their personal prescription is empty. BOCES shall develop procedures in collaboration with BOCES health personnel that is approved by the BOCES medical director and the Board of Education.

BOCES shall stock epinephrine auto-injectors. Pursuant to Public Health Law section 3000-c, BOCES shall establish a collaborative agreement with an emergency health care provider to institute written protocols and procedures for the use of non-patient specific epinephrine auto-injectors. BOCES shall ensure that designated staff are properly trained.

Life-Threatening Allergies and Anaphylaxis Management

The Board recognizes its role and responsibility in supporting a healthy learning environment for all students, including those who have, or develop, life-threatening allergies. The BOCES shall work cooperatively with the student, their parent/guardian and healthcare provider to allow the child to participate as fully and as safely as possible in BOCES activities. When a student has a known life-threatening allergy reported on their health form or if the BOCES has been informed by the parent of the presence of a life-threatening allergy, BOCES shall assemble a team, which may include the parent, the school nurse, the child's teacher, the building principal and other appropriate personnel, which shall be charged with developing an individual health care plan and/or an emergency action plan. The plan(s) shall be maintained by the school nurse, and guide prevention and response. If the student is eligible for accommodations based upon the IDEA, Section 504 or the Americans with Disabilities Act, the appropriate procedures shall be followed regarding identification, evaluation and implementation of accommodations.

Training

Training to support the fulfillment of staff responsibilities in regard to student health services shall be provided as part of BOCES' ongoing professional development plan and in conformity with Commissioner's regulations.

Regulations

The District Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop comprehensive regulations governing student health services. Those regulations shall include the provision of all health services required by law, procedures for the maintenance of health records, and procedures for the administering of medication to students.

The District Superintendent or his/her designee shall also develop protocols, in consultation with the BOCES physician and other appropriate BOCES staff, for the management of injury, with particular attention to concussion.

Cross-ref: 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities
5020.3, Students with Disabilities and Section 504
5420.1 Pediculosis
5550, Student Privacy
8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
9700, Staff Professional Development

Ref: Education Law §§310 (provisions for appeal of child denied school entrance for failure to comply with immunization requirements); 901 et seq. (medical, dental and health services, BMI reporting); 919 (provide and maintain nebulizers); 6909 (emergency treatment of anaphylaxis)
Public Health Law §§613 (annual survey); 2164 (immunization requirements)
8 NYCRR § 64.7 (administration of agents to treat anaphylaxis); § 135.4 (Physical Education);
Part 136 (school health services program)
Administration of Medication in the School Setting Guidelines, State Education Department, revised April 2002

CAPITAL REGION BOCES

Immunization Guidelines: Vaccine Preventable Communicable Disease Control, State Education Department, revised August 2000

Making the Difference: Caring for Students with Life-Threatening Allergies, New York State Department of Health, New York State Education Department, New York Statewide School Health Service Center, June 2008

Concussion Management Guidelines and Procedures, www.nysphsaa.org

Adoption date: July 15, 2013

Amended: June 20, 2016