

HEALTH and HEALTH EDUCATION

EXCUSE FROM HEALTH INSTRUCTION WHICH CONFLICTS WITH RELIGIOUS OR MORAL BELIEFS (E. C. 51240)

If instruction in any part of the health, family life or sex education programs conflicts with your religious training, beliefs, or personal and moral convictions, you may request **in writing** to your principal that your child be excused from that phase of the program.

SEX EDUCATION AND VENEREAL DISEASE AND AIDS PREVENTION INSTRUCTION (E. C. 51550, 51820, 51201.5)

Family life educational programs, including instruction in sex education, venereal disease and HIV/AIDS prevention, are offered at varying times and grade levels in the Palo Alto Unified School District. If the human reproductive organs and their functions and processes are to be described, illustrated or discussed in your child's class, you will be notified before this instruction takes place. You will then have the opportunity to review any written or audiovisual materials to be used. You may request **in writing** to your principal that your child not attend these classes.

VISION AND HEARING APPRAISAL (E. C. 49451-5)

The Palo Alto Unified School District is required to conduct sight and hearing testing at some grade levels. The School Nurse or a licensed technician will make these appraisals. You may request **in writing** to your school principal that your child be exempt from these tests if such appraisal is in conflict with your religious beliefs.

ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT (E. C. 49452.8)

California law now requires that children have an oral health assessment (**dental check-up**) in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is his or her **first year in public school**. Assessments that have happened within the 12 months before a child enters school also meet this requirement. This assessment must be done by a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional.

You may request **in writing** to the school principal that your child be exempt from this appraisal, using the Oral Health Assessment/Waiver Request form. This form and further information is available from the District Central Attendance office or your school office. For additional resources that may be helpful, contact the local public health department (in San Mateo County: 650-802-5018; in Santa Clara County: 408-271-5600).

HEALTH EXAM

All children entering the first grade are required by California law (Health and Safety Code 124085) to have either a certificate of a CHDP (Child Health and Disability Prevention Program) Health Exam or a waiver of such on file at the school in which they enroll. The exam may be given up to 18 months before 1st grade entry and must be completed by 90 days after 1st grade entry. Students may be excluded if requirement is not met.

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIBED MEDICATION (E. C. 49423)

When school personnel are requested to keep and/or give medication to a student, the following procedures must be followed:

- (1) California law requires that before any medication can be administered, the District must receive, *each school year*, a signed release from the parents/guardians (Medication Required During School Hours), indicating their desire that the school district assist the pupil in the manner set forth in the physician's statements (CEC § 49423).
- (2) Parents must also provide the school, *each school year and whenever directions are changed*, with a written statement (Medication Required During School Hours) from the attending physician, which gives specific directions for the administration of the medication to be given at school. California law requires that the physician's statement detail "the method, amount, and time schedules by which medication is to be taken" (CEC § 49423).
- (3) The principal is responsible for reviewing the request to administer medication and determining if the school can honor the request.

CONTINUING PROGRAM OF MEDICATION (E. C. 49480)

State law requires that the parent or guardian notify the school when your child is on continuing medication for a non-episodic condition (e.g., asthma, hay fever, hyperactivity, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.). The attending physician must renew medication for non-episodic orders in a release signed by the parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year or upon entrance to school. Parents/guardians must provide new forms each school year.

Provisions will be made on the emergency card completed annually for notifying school personnel of any medical problem your child may have. Additional forms may be required for the safety of your child while attending school.

SCREENING FOR SCOLIOSIS (E. C. 49452.5)

Recent legislation requires that all female pupils in grade 7 and all male pupils in grade 8 be given screenings for scoliosis, a condition involving curvature of the spine. You may request **in writing** to the school principal that your child be exempt from such a screening.

EXEMPTION FROM PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND/OR IMMUNIZATIONS (E. C. 49451.5, 49403 and California Administrative Code Title 17, Chapter 4)

No student will be allowed to enter school if immunization requirements are not met.

State law requires immunizations against poliomyelitis, rubella, regular measles, diphtheria, tetanus and mumps for all pupils enrolling in California schools. Immunization against whooping cough is required for pupils 6 years of age or younger. Hepatitis B is required for all students. A second dose of MMR is required. A Td booster is highly recommended. As of July, 2001, one dose of Varicella (Chickenpox) is required for all incoming kindergartners. For students enrolling from out of state or country who have never attended a California School, one or two doses are required dependent upon the age of the enrolling student.

HEALTH and HEALTH EDUCATION

As of October 1, 1995, tuberculosis skin testing has been required for all students entering kindergarten for the first time and for all students transferring from outside Santa Clara County and entering into grades one through twelve. This skin test must have been completed within eighteen months prior to kindergarten entry, or within six months prior to entry into grades one through twelve.

The skin test required for school entry is the PPD administered by the Mantoux method and read at 48 to 72 hours. Documentation of the PPD skin test must include:

- 1) date PPD was given
- 2) date PPD was read
- 3) the reading recorded in millimeters of in duration
- 4) Signature of a physician, registered nurse or health professional trained in administering and reading TB skin tests.

Exemptions for immunizations and/or tuberculosis testing are permitted only for medical reasons verified in writing by a physician or for personal beliefs verified by parent affidavit.

The Palo Alto Unified School District does not provide physical examinations or immunizations for students. Immunizations may be obtained through the Santa Clara County Immunization Clinic information may be obtained by calling (408) 792-5200.

EXCLUSION OF PUPILS FAILING TO MEET IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS (Health & Safety Code 3380 et. seq.; E. C. 48211, 48213-14)

Exclusion is the dismissal of students from required school attendance for a temporary or prescribed period of time for medical or moral reasons that may be adverse to the welfare of other students. Exclusion will apply to students who have not met the legal requirements regarding immunization, immunization histories, and tuberculosis testing or when there is reason to believe that a student is a potential carrier of a contagious or infectious disease.

Administrative Procedure

Prior to excluding a pupil, the Board of Education or its designated representative shall send a notice to the pupil's parent or guardian which contains the following information related to grounds for exclusion:

1. Statement of the facts leading to the decision to propose exclusion of the pupil.
2. A statement that the parent or guardian of the pupil has a right to a hearing with a designated representative of the Board to discuss the proposed exclusion, within ten (10) days from the date of exclusion. A request for such a hearing must be made in writing to the Associate Superintendent – Educational Services within five (5) school days from date of exclusion.
3. A statement that if the parent or guardian of the excluded pupil wishes to appeal the decision of the Board's designated representative, he/she has a right to a hearing with the Board within twenty (20) school days from the date when the Board's designated representative reaches a decision to exclude the child from school. A request for such a hearing must be made in writing to the President of the Board within five (5) school days from the date when the Board's designated representative reaches a decision to exclude the child from school.
4. A statement that at any meeting with the Board or its designated representative held to discuss proposed

exclusion, the parent or guardian shall have an opportunity to:

- a) Inspect all documents which the Board or its designated representative relied on in the decision to propose exclusion of the pupil;
 - b) Challenge any evidence and confront and question any witness presented by the Board or its designated representative;
 - c) Present oral and documentary evidence on the pupil's behalf, including witnesses; and
 - d) Designate one or more representatives to be present with the parent or guardian at the meeting.
5. A statement that the decision to exclude the pupil is subject to periodic review on an annual basis unless the Board or its designated representative establishes a shorter period of time. The review shall be conducted pursuant to the same procedures utilized for the initial exclusion.

Emergency Exclusion

The Board or its designated representative need not send prior notice of exclusion if a pupil is excluded for one of the following:

- 1) where the principal or designee has good reason to believe that the pupil is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease;
- 2) where the principal or designee has good reason to believe the pupil resides where any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease exists or has recently existed and which is subject to strict isolation or quarantine;
- 3) where the principal or designee determines that the continued presence of the pupil constitutes a clear and present danger to the life, safety, and health of pupils or personnel.

The Board or its designated representative, however, shall inform the parent and send the notice described under "Administrative Procedure" as soon as is reasonably possible.

EXCLUSION OF PUPILS

The Board of Education may exclude a student from school for the following reasons:

1. filthy or vicious habits;
2. contagious or infectious diseases;
3. physical or mental disability which causes attendance to be inimical to the welfare of other students.

The process of exclusion will ensure that the due process rights of parents and students are protected, and administrative guidelines will be maintained that outline the process by which exclusion will be effected.

STUDENTS WITH TEMPORARY DISABILITIES (E. C. 48206.3-48208)

Students with a temporary disability which makes attendance in regular day classes or alternative education programs impossible or inadvisable shall receive individual instruction provided by the district. A student who is in a hospital or other residential health facility shall be deemed to have complied with the residency requirements for school attendance in the school district in which the hospital is located. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the student to notify the school district of the student's presence in a qualifying hospital.