



News from the Nurse



I hope everyone had fun during our unprecedented snow fall and is now looking forward to spring.

It is important that ECS periodically update our parents on current public school health requirements. Our electronic student data system houses all necessary health records for each of our students in accordance with PA health mandates. If you receive a letter from the school nurse requesting updated or nursing records, all forms are available on the school web site:

Current school health requirements are listed below.

§ 23.2. Medical examinations.

(a) Medical examinations as required by § 23.1 (relating to required health services) shall be provided on original entry into school, in grade six and in grade 11.

(b) For purposes of this section, on original entry into school means entrance into kindergarten if it is part of the school system or into the first grade if the school system does not have a kindergarten. In instances where there are kindergartens in some schools of a district and not in others, the board or joint board may decide whether medical and dental examinations shall begin in grade one or in the kindergarten.

(c) Children transferred from other school systems shall be examined as soon as possible after the transfer regardless of their age or grade if an adequate health record is not made available by the original school.

(d) Medical examinations shall be conducted carefully and in sufficient detail to command medical respect and to provide an educational experience for the child and his parents. Examinations shall be scheduled so that an average of no more than four children will be examined in an hour. Results of vision and hearing screening tests shall be available to the physician at the time of the examination.

(e) The school medical examination may be conducted by the family physician and reported to the school on forms supplied by the school. Administrators are urged to have as many children examined privately as possible to provide for continuity in the medical care of the child. Payment for these examinations be the responsibility of the parent; however, children examined privately shall be counted as part of the enrollment for reimbursement purposes as provided in § 23.23 (relating to maximum reimbursement for medical services).

§ 23.3. Dental examinations.

(a) *Dental examinations shall be required on original entry into school and in grades three and seven. In instances where there are kindergartens in some schools of a district and not in others, the board or joint board may decide whether medical and dental examinations shall begin in the first grade or in the kindergarten.*

(b) Children transferred from other school systems shall be examined as soon as possible after the transfer regardless of their age or grade if an adequate dental record is not made available by the original school.

(c) Dental examinations shall be conducted with sufficient care and detail to command dental respect and to provide an educational experience for the child and his parents. Examinations shall be scheduled so that an average of no more than eight children are examined in an hour.

(d) The school dental examination may be conducted by the family dentist and reported to the school on forms supplied by the school. *Administrators are urged to have as many children examined privately as possible to provide for continuity in the dental care of the child.* Payment for these examinations shall be the responsibility of the parent; however, children examined privately shall be counted as part of the enrollment for reimbursement purposes as provided in § 23.24 (relating to maximum reimbursement for dental services).

§ 23.4. Vision screening tests.

Vision screening tests shall be conducted annually by a nurse, teacher or medical technician. The Snellen Chart or other screening device approved by the Department of Health shall be utilized for vision screening.

§ 23.5. Hearing screening tests.

(a) *Identity.* A hearing screening test determines the response to discrete frequencies presented at a specified decibel level.

(b) (b) *Test equipment.* An individual pure tone audiometer or other screening equipment approved by the Department of Health shall be utilized for hearing screening tests.

(c) *Frequencies employed.* Frequencies of 250, 500, 1,000, 2,000 and 4,000 cycles per second shall be employed in screening testing.

(d) *Pupils to be tested.* Each year, pupils in kindergarten, special ungraded classes and grades one, two, three, seven and 11 shall be given a hearing screening test.

§ 23.7. Height and weight measurements.

(a) Height and weight measurement shall be conducted at least once annually and preferably twice annually. Every effort shall be made to determine the pattern of growth for each child so that his weight and height can be interpreted in light of his own growth pattern rather than those of his classmates.

(b) Height and weight measurements shall be conducted by a nurse or teacher

§ 23.8. Maintenance of medical and dental records.

(a) School districts and joint school boards shall maintain comprehensive medical and dental records of each individual child.

(b) The records shall contain all the information the school obtains concerning the health of the child.

Pennsylvania Public School Health Code of 1949. Retrieved February 18, 2010 from <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/028/chapter23/chap23toc.html#23.2>.

I am here to help if you run into any problems, need assistance or have any questions about these requirements. I look forward to working together with all of you to accurately compile and maintain your child's comprehensive school health record.

Sincerely,

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