

STUDENTS

Communicable Diseases (Students)

The School Board recognizes that the student with a communicable disease is entitled to all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and the District's policies. The District shall balance those student rights with the District's obligation to protect the health of all district students and staff.

The Board directs the administration to observe all rules of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable disease. The Superintendent shall develop and implement procedures for the district to report to the local health authority, where appropriate, known or suspected cases of communicable disease involving a district student. The collection and maintenance of the student's medical information shall be done in a manner to ensure the strictest confidentiality and in accordance with federal and state laws regarding student records.

There is hereby created a Communicable Disease Review Team for the purpose of evaluating students with communicable diseases. The Review Team shall consist of the Superintendent; the building principal; family doctor or doctor who is acquainted with student; the Director of Nursing of DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department or his/her representative; and school Guidance Counselor, if any. Whenever a student with a known or suspected case of a communicable disease is reported to the Communicable Disease Review Team it shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether the student shall be permitted to attend school in a regular classroom setting or participate in school activities. The determination shall be made by balancing the seriousness of the disease involved, the risk of transmission of the disease, and by evaluating the potential dangers by regular classroom attendance to the student affected with the disease.

If the student with the communicable disease is not permitted to attend school in a regular classroom or participate in school activities with other students due to a determination by the Communicable Disease Review Team that he or she poses a high risk of transmission of a communicable disease to other student and staff or because attendance would present an unacceptable level of danger to the affected student, every reasonable effort shall be made to provide the student with a adequate alternative education. State regulations and school policy regarding homebound instructions shall apply. Temporary removal of the student from district's classroom(s) may be appropriate when:

- the student lacks control of bodily secretions;
- the school environment proves dangerous to the affected student's health or well being;
- the student has open sores that cannot be covered;
- the student demonstrates behavior (e.g. biting) which could result in direct inoculation of potentially infected body fluids into the bloodstream.

When a student displaying any of the above described behavior is reported, the Communicable Disease Review Team shall determine whether temporary removal from the classroom is appropriate. The seriousness of the disease and the risk of transmission shall be considered when making this determination. Whenever the risk of other persons contacting the disease from the student with the communicable disease can be reduced to the level of risk which would otherwise exist without the presence of the student, lesser restrictions shall be imposed. Such lesser restrictions may include, with limitation, separate bathroom facilities, physical separation from other students and separate transportation for the student with the communicable disease. The student's age, ability to understand and follow instructions, and abilities to control body movements and fluids shall be considered in making the determination.

A student excluded or restricted because of risk to his or her own health may have restrictions altered by the Communicable Disease Review Team as conditions warrant. The removal of a student with a communicable disease from normal school attendance shall be reviewed by the Communicable Disease Review Team at least once every month to determine whether the condition precipitating the removal has changed. Whenever possible, consultation shall be had with the student's personal physician and local health authorities.

When a student returns to school after an absence due to a communicable disease, the school administration may require that he or she present a certificate from a physician licensed in the State of Illinois stating that the student is free from disease or otherwise qualified for readmission to school under the rules of the Illinois Department of Public Health which regulate periods of incubation, communicability, quarantine, and reporting.

If the parent(s) or guardian(s) disagree with the student's alternative educational placement or program, they shall be offered the opportunity to appeal to the School Board within ten (10) days of their notification of the decision of the Communicable Disease Review Team.

The Superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall be responsible for communicating and interpreting the District's communicable disease policies and procedures to the school district personnel, parents, and students.