

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF STUDENTS

The Board is aware of the relationship between student health and success in school. Recognizing that parents/guardians bear the major responsibility for attending to the health needs of their children and that the school system has an interest in the well-being of its students, the Board adopts the following policy.

A. Physical Examinations and Screenings

Parents/guardians shall be encouraged to have their children physically examined prior to entering school and again prior to the **[insert appropriate interval, e.g., grades 3, 6 and 9]**. Dental examinations shall also be encouraged.

[NOTE: The Board should insert any provisions for physical examinations to be offered through the schools, whether available to all students or to those without funds or insurance coverage.]

Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted as required by Maine law. Parents will be notified of any suspected health problems identified through screening.

School staff are encouraged to be alert to the general well-being of students and should refer any concerns to the building principal and/or school nurse.

B. Participation in Athletics

Students who wish to participate in middle school or high school athletics are required to have a physical examination and medical approval before doing so. The physical examination must have been given within _____ days **[OR: months]** prior to participation. Thereafter, students participating in athletics must complete a pre-participation physical evaluation form each year. These forms will be reviewed by the school nurse, who may after reviewing a form, refer the student to his/her health care provider for more extensive examination. A student whose health status is questionable and has been referred for further examination will not be allowed to participate in practice or competition until he/she has been examined and medically approved for participation.

C. Parental Consent

Parent/guardian consent shall be required for physical examinations if given by the school physician or under the auspices of the school.

Parents/guardians and eligible students (students 18 years of age or older) shall be notified annually and have the opportunity to opt the student out of any non-emergency, invasive, physical examination or screening that is:

1. Required as a condition of attendance;
2. Administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
3. Not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

For the purpose of this policy, “invasive physical examination” means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision or scoliosis screening.

[NOTE: The two paragraphs immediately above reflect requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act; see 20 U.S.C. § 1232h(c).]

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 6402-A, 6451-6453
20 U.S.C. § 1232h(c)

Cross Reference: JJIA – Eligibility for Participation in Athletic/Extracurricular Activities
JLCB - Immunization of Students

Adopted: July 12, 1995

Revised: _____