

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING
PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS/HEALTH ASSESSMENTS/SCREENINGS**

The Westfield School Committee requires each student enrolled in the Westfield Public Schools to have certain physical examinations, health assessments and screenings shall be to ascertain whether a student has any physical disability tending to prevent him/her from receiving the full benefit of school work, to ascertain whether school work should be modified in order to prevent injury to the student or to secure a suitable program of education for him/her and to insure that diseases dangerous to the public health and other contagious or communicable disease are recognized whenever they occur.

The School Committee recognizes that, along with the Board of Health, it may provide for more frequent and more specialized examinations in accordance with state and federal law.

Physical Examinations

- A. Every student will be given a general physical examination:
 - 1. Before entering school
 - 2. Upon admittance to the fourth, seventh, and tenth grades.

- B. Physical examination must be conducted by a primary care provider duly registered in Massachusetts who is licensed under the state statute.

- C. Students entering school must have their physical examination within one year prior to their entrance to school or within 30 days after entrance.

- D. A student transferring from another school system shall be examined as an entering child unless school health records are transferred with the child showing that he has an adequate health appraisal in the school year of transfer.

- E. Physical examinations shall also be required under the following circumstances:
 - 1. Children referred because of frequent absences due to unexplained illness.
 - 2. Children referred because of known physical defects that require repeated appraisal.
 - 3. Children referred from teacher-nurse conferences because the child is not making expected progress in school or because signs of illness noted by the teacher or nurse.
 - 4. Children under 16 and over 14 years of age requesting employment certificates.
 - 5. Children planning to participate in competitive athletics annually, previous to such participation.

- F. Referrals to the school physician will be made in the case of extreme hardship. Every reasonable effort shall be made to link each student with a primary care provider.

Health Screenings

All school health screenings will be conducted in accordance with the recommendations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and 105 CMR 200.

Procedures for Health Appraisals

Since family health care providers have a comprehensive knowledge of the health status of their student patients, the Westfield Public Schools encourages parents to have their family physician perform any required health appraisals, including physical examinations, assessments or screenings. Verifications of such out of school examinations must be received by the school nurse.

Health Record Forms

Results of any health appraisals, including physical examinations, assessments and screenings, shall be recorded in detail on health record forms provided by, or approved by, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Follow-up After Appraisals

Disabilities and defects found on health appraisal of an individual child shall be brought to the attention of the family. The school or health department shall encourage the family to take the child with physical defects to the primary health care provider or other source of care.

Exemptions

In accordance with MGL c 71 §57 a student shall be exempt from physical examinations or screenings on religious grounds, upon written request of parent or legal guardian, except with respect to communicable diseases.

Legal References: M.G.L. c. 111, § 3

M.G.L. c. 71, § 57

105 CMR §§200.000 through 200.630

The protection of Pupil Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, as

Amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110 §1061

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