



Student Policies BP 09-08

Board Policy: HEALTH SCREENINGS

Vision, Hearing, Scoliosis Screening and Oral Health Assessment

The principal at each GCC charter school shall notify parents/guardians of the rights of students and parents/guardians related to health examinations.

A parent/guardian may annually file a written statement with the principal withholding consent to the physical examination of his/her child. The child shall be exempt from any physical examination but shall be subject to exclusion from attendance when contagious or infectious disease is reasonably suspected.

Vision and Hearing Tests

Students shall have their vision and hearing tested by qualified personnel authorized by the Gateway Community Charters.

All students shall be tested for visual acuity when they first enroll in elementary school and every three years thereafter until the student completes grade 8. External observations of the student's eyes, visual performance and perception shall be made by school personnel and the classroom teacher.

For male students, color vision shall be tested one time, after the students reach grade 1. Results of the test shall be entered into the student's health record.

Evaluation of a student's vision may be waived at either parent/guardian's request if the parent/guardian presents a certificate form either a medical doctor or an optometrist specifying the results of an examination of the student's vision including visual acuity, and, in male students, color vision.

Visual defects or any other defects found as a result of the visual examination shall be reported to the parent/guardian with a request that remedial action be taken to correct or cure the defect. If made in writing such reports shall not include a referral to any private practitioner, and the report of a visual defect shall be made on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The student may be referred to a public clinic or diagnostic and treatment center operated by a public hospital or by the state, county or city department of public health.

Scoliosis Screening

Each female student in grade 7 and each male student in grade 8 shall be screened for scoliosis. This screening shall comply with California Department of Education standards and shall be performed by qualified personnel.

Persons performing the screening shall not solicit, encourage or advise treatment of the student for scoliosis or any other condition discovered in the course of the screening.

The parent/guardian of any student suspected of having scoliosis shall receive a notice which includes an explanation of scoliosis and describes the significance of treatment at an early age. This notice shall also describe the public services available for treatment and include a referral to appropriate community resources.

Oral Health Assessments for Grades K-1

No later than May 31 of the relevant school year, the parent/guardian of a kindergarten student, or first grade student who was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, shall certify that the student has received an oral health assessment. The oral health assessment shall have been performed by a licensed dentist or other authorized dental health professional no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of the student's initial enrollment. The parent/guardian shall submit to the Superintendent/CEO or designee a California Department of Education standardized form which has been completed and signed by the dental health professional.

The Superintendent or a designee shall notify parents/guardians of the oral health assessment requirement. The notification shall, at a minimum, consist of a letter that includes all of the following:

1. An explanation of the administrative requirements of the law
2. Information on the importance of primary teeth
3. Information on the importance of oral health to overall health and to learning
4. A toll-free telephone number to request an application for Healthy Families, Medi-Cal, or other government-subsidized health insurance programs
5. Contact information for county public health departments
6. A statement of privacy applicable under state and federal laws and regulations

The notification and certification form shall be provided to parents/guardians when they register their child for school.

The student may be excused from complying with the oral health assessment if his/her parent/guardian indicates on the standardized form that it could not be completed for any of the following reasons:

1. Completion of an assessment poses an undue financial burden on the parent/guardian
2. The parent/guardian lacks access to a licensed dentist or other dental health professional
3. The parent/guardian does not consent to an assessment

Students who are not assessed, or for whom the parents/guardians fail to return the standardized form shall not be excluded from school attendance.

By December 31 of each year, the Superintendent/CEO or designee shall report data on oral health assessments to the county office of education.

The report shall also be provided to the Governing Board. The identity of any student shall not be included in the report.

NOTE: This Policy supercedes the Grant Community Charters Board Policy on Vision & Hearing Screening adopted 5/3/05.

Board Approved: October 21, 2008