

OFFICE OF THE SOLANO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Series 5000 – STUDENTS

Policy 5141.3

Health Examinations

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) recognizes that periodic health examinations of students may lead to the detection and treatment of conditions that impact learning. Health examinations also may help in determining whether special adaptations of the school program are necessary.

In addition to verifying that students have complied with legal requirements for health examinations and immunizations before enrolling in school, SCOE shall administer tests for vision, hearing, and scoliosis as required by law.

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff employed to examine students exercise proper care of each student and that examination results are kept confidential. Records related to these examinations shall be available only in accordance with law.

Reports regarding the number of students found to have physical problems and the effort made to correct them shall in no way reveal the identity of students.

The principal at each 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. (Education Code 49451)

Vision and Hearing Tests

Students shall have their vision and hearing tested by qualified personnel authorized by SCOE. (Education Code 49452, 49454)

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 the school nurse and the classroom teacher. (Education Code 49455)

For male students, color vision shall be tested one time, after the student reaches 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 the parent/guardian's request if the parent/guardian presents a certificate from 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 vision 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 State Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Education Code 49456)

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.

Policy 5141.3 (Continued)

Scoliosis Screening (Education Code 49452.5)

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 as specified in law.

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.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 44871-44879 Employment qualifications
- 48980 Parent rights and responsibilities
- 49400-49413 General powers-school boards (re pupil health)
- 49422 Supervision of health and physical development
- 49450-49457 Physical examinations (of pupils)
- 49460-49466 Development of standardized health assessments

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

- 120325-120380 Immunization against communicable diseases
- 121475-121520 Tuberculosis tests for pupils

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 590-596 Vision screening
- 3027 Hearing and vision screening for special education
- 3028 Audiological screening

Policy Cross-Reference:

- 5112.2 Exclusions from Attendance
- 5125 Student Records
- 5141.22 Infectious Diseases
- 5141.26 Tuberculosis Testing
- 5141.31 Immunizations
- 5141.32 Child Health and Disability Prevention Program
- 5141.6 Student Health and Social Services
- 5143 Insurance
- 5145.6 Parental Notifications