

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF STUDENTS**

The School Committee 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 entering grade 7. Dental examinations shall also be encouraged.

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 is encouraged to be alert to the general well-being of students and should refer any concerns to the building principal 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 prior to participation. Thereafter, students participating in athletics must have a physical examination on a schedule recommended by their health care provider, but not less frequently than once every two years. A student will not be allowed to participate in practice or competition without the required physical examination and medical approval.

### **C. Parental Consent**

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: JLCB - Immunization of Students

Adopted: December 9, 2019

Reviewed: May 8, 2023