Hickman County Board of Education

	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued Date:
	Physical Examinations and Immunizations	**6.402**	**06/05/23**
		Rescinds: **6.402**	Issued: **08/02/21**

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS[1]

The principal shall ensure that there is a complete physical examination of each student prior to:[2]

1. Entering school for the first time. This applies to kindergarten, first grade and other students for whom there is no health record; and

2. Participation as a member of any athletic team or in any other strenuous physical activity program.

Cost of the examination shall be borne by the parent or guardian of the student. These records shall be on file in the principal's office.

Screening tests as recommended by the Tennessee Department of Education and the Department of Health will be conducted. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive written notice of any screening result that indicates a condition that might interfere with the student's progress. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may excuse their student from participating in health screenings that are part of a coordinated school health program by submitting a request in writing to the school nurse, instructor, school counselor, or principal.[3]
In general, the school district will not conduct physical examinations of a student without parental consent to do so or by court order, unless the health or safety of the student or others is in question.[3]

IMMUNIZATIONS

No students entering school, including those entering kindergarten or first grade, those from out-of-state and those from nonpublic schools, will be permitted to enroll (or attend) without proof of immunization, as determined by the Commissioner of Public Health. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to have their children immunized and to provide such proof to the principal of the school which the student is to attend.[4]

Exceptions will be granted to any student whose parent/guardian files with school authorities a signed, written statement that such measures conflict with the one of the following:

1. His/her religious tenets and practices if in the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat of an epidemic, except in the event of a COVID-19 or any variant outbreak;[5] or
2. Due to medical reasons if the student has a written statement from his/her doctor excusing him/her from the immunization.[6]

Proof of exceptions will be in writing and filed in the same manner as other immunization records. The Director of Schools shall ensure that appropriate immunization records are maintained for each student.

A list of transfer students shall be kept at each school throughout the school year in order that their records can be monitored by the Department of Health and Environment.

Legal References

1. 20 USCA § 1232h(c)
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.01(1)(a)
3. Public Acts of 2023, Chapter No. 353;Tennessee School Health Screening Guidelines, https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/esh/esh_school_health_screening_guidelines.pdf; 20 USCA § 1232h(c)(2)(C)
4. TCA 49-6-5001(a),(c)
5. TCA 49-6-5001(b)(2); Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 513
6. TCA 49-6-5001(c)(2)

Cross References

Promoting Student Welfare 6.400