

WESTERN SIERRA CHARTER SCHOOLS
STUDENT HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Health Examinations

Health Examination Certificates or Waivers

(For schools operated by Western Sierra Charter Schools that serve K-8 students.)

On or before the 90th day after a student's entrance into first grade at the School, all students must provide a certificate approved by the California Department of Health Services documenting that within the prior 18 months, the child had received the appropriate health screening and evaluation services as provided by Health & Safety Code section 124040. Alternatively, the student must provide a waiver signed by the student's parents/guardians indicating that they do not want or are unable to obtain the health screening and evaluation services for their child. If the waiver indicates that the parents/guardians are unable to obtain services for the child, the reasons why should be included in the waiver. In limited circumstances, up to five percent of the School's first grade enrollment may obtain exemptions from exclusion if the School contacts the student's parents/guardians at least twice before the 90th day after entrance to the first grade and they refuse to provide either a certificate or waiver. These exemptions shall only be used in extraordinary circumstances, including, but not limited to, family situations of great dysfunction or disruption, including substance abuse by parents or guardians, child abuse or child neglect.

(For schools operated by Western Sierra Charter Schools that do not serve K-1 students.)

Upon enrollment, the School will verify that the student's file contains a certificate of the health examinations required under the Health & Safety Code, or a waiver from those requirements.

Health Examinations by the School

The Governing Board recognizes that periodic health examinations of students may lead to the detection and treatment of conditions that impact learning. WSCS health examinations include only vision, hearing screenings. Health examinations also may help in determining whether special adaptations of the School's program are necessary. The School shall conduct health examinations of students as needed to insure proper care of the students.

(For schools operated by Western Sierra Charter Schools that serve K-8 students.)

Vision and Hearing Tests: Upon first enrollment in the School and at least every third year thereafter until the child has completed the eighth grade, the School shall test the student's vision and hearing. The vision test shall include tests for visual acuity and color vision, although the

color vision shall be appraised once and only on male students, the results of which shall be entered in the health records and need not begin until the student is in first grade. Classroom teachers are responsible for continuous observation of the appearance, behavior and complaints of students that might indicate vision problems. Where a student's school performance begins to give evidence that the existence of the problem might be caused by a visual difficulty, a visual evaluation shall be done in consultation with the school nurse.

The vision evaluation may be waived by the parents/guardians if they present a certificate from a physician and surgeon or an optometrist setting out the results of a determination of the child's vision, including visual acuity and color. Parents/guardians may also avoid the testing and observation if they file with the School Director a statement in writing that they adhere to the faith or teachings of any well-recognized religious sect, denomination, or organization and in accordance with its creed, tenets or principles depend for healing upon prayer in the practice of their religion.

The Director, or designee, shall ensure that staff employed to examine students are fully qualified to do so and 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.

Immunizations

To protect the health of all students and staff and to curtail the spread of infectious diseases, the WSCS Board desires to cooperate with state and local health agencies to encourage immunization of all students against preventable diseases.

Admission: Students shall not be unconditionally admitted to the School unless prior to his/her first admission to the School, he/she presents an immunization record which shows at least the month and year of each immunization the student has received, in accordance with law. Students may be conditionally admitted in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the Department of Health Services. If a student conditionally admitted fails to fulfill the conditions of admission, the School will prohibit the student from further attendance until that student has been fully immunized as required by law.

Immunization records shall be part of the mandatory permanent pupil record and shall be kept in accordance with the School's record-keeping policy.

If the School discovers that an admitted student has not received all required immunizations, the School will notify his/her parent/guardian.

Exemptions from Requirements: A student will be exempted from the immunization requirements, to the extent indicated in the written statement, if his/her parent or guardian files with the School a written statement by a licensed physician to the effect that the physical condition of the student is such, or medical circumstances relating to the student are such, that the immunization is not considered safe. However, whenever there is good cause to believe that the person has been exposed to a communicable disease for which immunization is required, that student may be temporarily excluded from the School until the local health officer is satisfied that the person is no longer at risk of developing the disease.

The School will file a written report on the immunization status of new entrants to the School with the Department of Health Services as required by law.

Oral Health

(For schools operated by Western Sierra Charter Schools that serve K-8 students.)

Admission: By May 31 of each school year, students entering kindergarten or the first grade (who have not attended kindergarten) must present proof to the school of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist, or other licensed or registered dental health professional. The oral health assessment must have been performed no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of initial enrollment.

A student may be excused from this requirement if his/her parent or guardian indicates on the approved form provided by the school one or more of the following reasons apply:

- The oral health assessment poses an undue financial burden on the parent/guardian;
- The parent/guardian lacks access to a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional; or
- The parent/guardian does not consent to the assessment.

Notice: Upon initial enrollment in kindergarten or first grade, the school will notify parent/guardians of the required oral health assessment on the California Department of Education approved form.

Adopted: 4/13/2016

Amended: