

## HEALTH EXAMINATIONS, IMMUNIZATIONS AND ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

### Health Examinations

#### Health Examination Certificates or Waivers

On or before the 90<sup>th</sup> day after a student's entrance into first grade at **Sonoma Charter School** (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. If the student fails to provide the required documentation, the student will be excluded from the School for not more than five days. 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### 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. 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.

**Appraisals:** During the kindergarten year, or upon first enrollment in the School if it is the student's first entry in a California school, and in grades 2, 5 and 8, the School shall appraise the student's vision. The school need not appraise a student's vision in the year immediately following the student's first enrollment or entry if the student's first enrollment or entry occurs in grade 4 or 7. The appraisal shall include tests for visual acuity, including near vision 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 and regular observation of the student's eyes, appearance, behavior visual performance, and perception that might indicate vision difficulties. 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.

A student's vision may be appraised by using an eye chart or any other scientifically validated photoscreening test. Photoscreening tests shall be performed, under an agreement with, or the supervision of, an optometrist or ophthalmologist, by the school nurse or a trained individual who meets requirements established by the CDE.

The vision evaluation may be waived by the parents/guardians if they present a certificate from a physician and surgeon, a physician assistant, or an optometrist setting out the results of a determination of the child's vision, including visual acuity and color vision. 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.

A parent/guardian may file annually with the School's Director a statement in writing, signed by the parent/guardian, stating that he/she will not consent to a physical examination of his/her child. The student will thereafter be exempt from physical examinations, but if there is good reason to believe that the student is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the student will be sent home and not be permitted to return to school until the School Director is satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

**Scoliosis Screening:** Every female student in grade 7 and every male student in grade 8 shall be screened for the condition known as scoliosis. The screening shall be in accordance with standards established by the State Department of Education. The screening shall take place during the regular school day and any staff time devoted to these activities shall be redirected from other ongoing activities not related to the student's health care. If a student is suspected of having scoliosis, the School will notify the parents. The notice will include an explanation of scoliosis, the significance of treating it at an early age, and the public services available, after diagnosis, for treatment.

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.

The School Director may make reports to the Governing Board regarding the number of students found to have physical problems and the effort made to correct them from time to time. The reports shall in no way reveal the identity of students.

The School will provide for the testing of hearing of each student enrolled in the school in kindergarten or first grade and again in second, fifth, or eighth and first entry into the California public school system.

Pupils at risk of hearing loss are: those exposed to loud noises, including loud music, pupils that have been referred for testing by a parent or teacher, repeat tests for those pupils for whom there

was a previously documented problem, pupils who have not had a hearing test for three years; and any student who has enrolled for the first time in the School.

Each student enrolled in a special education program, other than those pupils enrolled for a hearing problem, shall be given a hearing test when enrolled in the program and every third year thereafter. Hearing tests may be given more frequently as needed, based on the individual education program team's evaluation of each individual student.

The School will provide parents/guardians of children who fail the hearing tests with a written notification of the test results and recommend that a medical and audiological evaluation be obtained under certain circumstances identified in regulation.

Dates and results of all screening hearing testing shall be recorded on each pupil's health record. The School will prepare an annual report of the school hearing testing program using Annual Report of Hearing Testing forms, PM 100, provided by the State Department of Health Services.

The School shall endeavor to follow the equipment standards, test environments, and testing procedures identified in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, section 2951.

#### Immunizations

To protect the health of all students and staff and to curtail the spread of infectious diseases, the Governing Board desires to cooperate with state and local health agencies to require 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.

The School shall not unconditionally admit or advance any pupil to the 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade levels unless the pupil has been fully immunized against pertussis (whooping cough), including all pertussis boosters appropriate for the pupil's age.

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. If, within 10 school days of the notice, the child does not provide documentation of having received all required immunizations, the School shall exclude the student from attendance.

**Exemptions from Requirements:** Students who, prior to January 1, 2016, submitted a letter or affidavit on file at any public or private elementary or secondary school stating beliefs opposed to immunization, shall be allowed to unconditionally enroll in the School. **[Note: this exception is only permitted until the pupil enrolls in the next grade span. If your school serves multiple grade spans (K-6 and 7-12), upon enrollment in the next grade span, the pupil will need to be immunized in accordance with law.]**

Additionally, 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 or surgeon to the effect that the physical condition of the student is such, or medical circumstances relating to the student are such, that immunization is not considered safe. The statement should include the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances, including, but not limited to, family medical history, for which the physician or surgeon does not recommend immunization. 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.

Beginning January 1, 2020, a child who has a medical exemption issued before January 1, 2020 shall be allowed continued enrollment in the School until the child enrolls in the next grade span. On or after July 1, 2021, the School shall not unconditionally admit or readmit a student or admit or advance any pupil to 7<sup>th</sup> grade level, unless the pupil has been immunized in accordance with Health & Safety Code section 120335 or the parent or guardian files a medical exemption form that complies with Health & Safety Code section 120372.

Beginning January 1, 2021, the form that is compliant with Health & Safety Code section 120372 shall be the only documentation of a medical exemption that the School may accept.

If California's Department of Health Services (the "Department") revokes a student's medical exemption, the student has 30 days to commence the immunization schedule required for attendance at the School. During this 30-day period, the student may continue in attendance at the School. Alternatively, the parent/guardian may appeal the revocation through the Department's appeal process. The student will continue in attendance during the pendency of the appeal and will not be required to otherwise comply with immunization requirements unless and until the revocation is upheld on appeal.

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**

**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.

**Report to County Office of Education:** By July 1 of each year, the school will submit a report to a system designated by the state dental director for the collection of those reports or the County Office of Education containing the following information:

- the total number of pupils in the school who are subject to the oral health assessment requirements of the statute;
- the total number of pupils who submitted proof of an assessment;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment due to financial burden;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment due to lack of access to a dentist;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment because their parents/guardians did not consent;
- the total number of pupils who are assessed and found to have had caries experience;
- the total number of pupils who are assessed and found to have untreated decay;
- the total number of pupils who did not return either the assessment form or the waiver request to the school

Adopted: 03/28/2023

Amended: