

STUDENT PERSONNEL HEALTH SERVICES POLICY

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assure the health, safety, and well-being of all its students. Health Service is primarily concerned with specific areas of communicable disease, immunizations, administration of medications, injuries, and other health conditions which may interfere with normal progress in school.

II. General Statement of Policy

- A. Health Service is an essential component of the educational process which fosters good health, attendance, and education.
- B. The school environment should promote and protect students' health, well-being, and ability to learn.
- C. The school district encourages the involvement of students, parents, teachers, health service staff, health advisory board members, and other interested persons in implementing, monitoring, and reviewing school district health service policies.
- D. Students who are healthy learn better.
- E. Qualified health service staff will provide health services to the students of the Bemidji Area School District for optimal safety and health.

III. Guidelines

- A. Communicable Diseases
 - 1. Health Service is committed to minimizing interruptions to learning caused by communicable disease.
 - 2. Students/Employees with identified or suspected communicable disease will be reported to the Licensed School Nurse when legally required.
 - 3. Students who become ill during the day need to be evaluated by health services before they are sent home.
 - 4. Guidelines for exclusion due to a potential or identified communicable disease will be followed as recommended by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and *Infectious Disease in Childcare Settings and Schools* (Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department-Epidemiology Unit publication).
 - 5. For sexually transmitted diseases, refer to SBR 700-60-7.
 - 6. Standard Precautions will be followed for the prevention of blood borne pathogens. Refer to Bemidji Area Schools Blood Borne Pathogens Policy SBR 700-60-8.
- B. Immunizations
 - 1. Bemidji Area Schools will enforce Minnesota Statutes Section 121A.15 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4604 – the Minnesota Immunization Law in respect to student immunizations.

2. In order to enroll or remain enrolled in a Bemidji school, the parent/guardian of the student must submit a statement to the school that shows the student is compliant with immunization law or provide a signed, notarized Conscientious Objector or Medical Exemption form.
 3. Refer to Bemidji Area Schools Immunization Policy SBR 700-60-6.
- C. Administration of Medications
1. Medications for students may be essential and benefit their educational process.
 2. Medications given at school must follow the Bemidji School District Medication Policy SBR 700-60-4.
- D. First Aid, Illnesses, and Emergencies
1. *First Aid Guidelines* shall be used as directives in administering first aid.
 2. In the event of injury or illnesses, school health service personnel or other school personnel shall insure that first aid is administered.
 3. Every possible action shall be taken to protect the life, health, and safety of the injured or ill person.
 4. Students
 - a) The teacher or assistant in charge of an area in which illness or injury occurs shall act immediately to initiate first aid care and, when the situation warrants, shall inform school health personnel.
 - b) Responsibility for care and follow-up of the student shall be transferred to health services as soon as possible.
 - c) If a student needs medical care and the parent/guardian cannot be reached, health service staff will call the School Nurse to assess the student as needed.
 - d) If emergency care is needed immediately, call 911. The School Nurse and Principal need to be informed.
 - e) An appropriate incident report form shall be completed on all reportable injuries.
 - (1) On each student injury resulting in one-half or more days absence.
 - (2) On each injury requiring a health care provider's attention.
 - (3) On all significant head injuries.
 - (4) Whenever health service personnel deems a report is warranted.
 - (5) By staff involved in the area where the injury occurred.
 - f) Physical Education (PE) Exemption
 - (1) Students needing to be excused from PE for three days or less should seek written permission from district health service personnel, parent, or health provider.
 - (2) PE exemptions for longer than three days must have a written health provider's or district health service personnel statement including; reason for the exemption, length of time exempted, and any specific instructions about the ability to participate or any limitations.
- E. Health Conditions and the Medically Fragile Student
1. Bemidji Area Schools will comply with all relevant federal and state data privacy and disability laws, including FERPA, HIPAA, and IDEA.

2. Health Service is committed to providing support to students with known health conditions to help them be successful at school.
3. The Medically Fragile Student is interpreted as students with specialized health care needs that require specialized technological health care procedures for life support and/or health support during the school day.
4. All students with a known health condition which could endanger their well-being will have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) which will be shared with school personnel on a need to know basis.
5. The School Nurse will be involved with the ERPs and will develop Individual Health Care Plans as needed.

F. Health Screening

1. Early Childhood Screening will be offered to young children before kindergarten entrance, targeting children 3 to 5 years of age. Children must be screened at least once before kindergarten entrance.
2. Hearing and vision screening will be done on students in grades Kindergarten, 1, 3, and 5.
3. Boys in first grade will be screened for color vision.
4. Additional screenings will be done on:
 - a) Elementary grades (1, 3, and 5) transfer students without documentation of screening within the school year.
 - b) Students with a parent, healthcare provider, or staff concern for vision and/or hearing issues.
 - c) Student for IEP evaluations.
5. Standard screening procedures and equipment will be used for screening purposes.
6. Referrals for healthcare follow-up will be sent to parents as needed.

G. Student Wellness

1. Student wellness regarding nutrition and physical activity is addressed in the Wellness Policy SBR 700-90-5.
2. Healthy hygiene, including good hand washing and Cover Your Cough (MDH), will be encouraged in the schools.
3. Puberty classes will be offered to students within the fifth grade.