

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MANUAL: School Health

APPROVED BY:

Board of Health
School Medical Advisor

POLICY/ADMINISTRATIVE
REGULATIONS: Health Assessments

DATE APPROVED:

2-26-90; 8-12-91,
10-17-94; 5-13-96;
8-7-00; 4-10-06; 3-12-07,
9-12-11, 10-15-12, 7-2014

POLICY

- I. In accordance with Connecticut General statutes, each student enrolled in the Fairfield schools shall be required to have a health assessment by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine (physician or osteopath licensed to practice in the United States), an advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, or physician assistant licensed to practice in Connecticut or by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at any military base.
- prior to initial entrance into preschool programs
 - prior to initial entrance into kindergarten
 - for transfer students, prior to initial entrance into the Fairfield schools
 - in grades 6 and 10⁹
 - for ungraded students, prior to initial entrance and whenever a health assessment is required for students of the same age cohort as the ungraded student.

Health assessments shall be required for entrance into grade nine in non-public high schools in lieu of health assessments required in grade 10.

All health assessments required above and done on or after August 15th, 2005 shall include documentation of an assessment of the student's risk of exposure to tuberculosis. Any student determined to be at high risk shall receive a Mantoux tuberculin skin test performed in the United States as part of the required health assessment.

Health assessments required prior to initial entrance into a Fairfield school shall include evidence of a Mantoux tuberculin skin test performed after most recent entry into the United States for students entering school in Fairfield from a country with a high prevalence of tuberculosis.

Countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis include those identified as such by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Any student found to have a positive Mantoux tuberculin skin test or tuberculosis disease shall be permitted to attend school only in accordance with the tuberculosis control protocols established by the Fairfield Director of Health and School Medical Advisor.

Any student not in accordance with this policy shall not be permitted to register for or continue attendance in school.

All students are encouraged to have their health assessments done by their private health care provider to promote continuity of care. However, if this is not done, health assessments will be available in the schools or in the Fairfield Well Child Clinic for eligible students with parent authorization.

Students who are experiencing health problems or are suspected of having a health problem may be referred to their private health care provider for a health assessment at other than required times.

POLICY/ADMINISTRATIVE

REGULATIONS: Health Assessments

2.

- II. Students participating in high school interscholastic sports (tryouts, practice, or play) shall be required to have a health assessment no more than thirteen months prior to participation in the sport for the current school year. The health assessment is valid for a period of thirteen months from the date it was done. Once the health assessment becomes more than thirteen-months old, the student cannot continue to participate in the sport until a new health assessment is done and submitted to the school. The health assessment must be done by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine (physician or osteopath licensed to practice in the United States), an advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, or physician assistant licensed to practice in Connecticut, or by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at any military base.

- III. Timing of health assessments shall be in accordance with the corresponding Administrative Regulations.

- IV. Connecticut state statutes permit exemption from physical or medical examination required for entry into school or entry into grades 6 or 10 9 if the parent/legal guardian of a student provides a written statement that the parent/legal guardian of the student, or the student, objects on religious grounds, to physical or medical examination. These exemptions do not apply to health assessments required for participation in sports.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes 10-206

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

I. Acceptable Dates for Health Assessments

- a. Health assessments required for initial enrollment in preschool programs and kindergarten shall be done on or after August 15th of the school year preceding initial enrollment into these grades.
- b. Health assessments required for initial enrollment of transfer students shall be done as recently as the last required health assessment for the student's grade level.
- c. Health assessments required for students in grades 6 and 10 9 shall be done on or after August 15th of the school year preceding entrance into those grades and must be submitted to the school prior to entrance into grades 7 and 11 10 respectively.
- d. Health assessments required for entrance into grade nine in non-public high schools shall be done on or after August 15th of the school year preceding initial enrollment in grade nine and submitted to the school prior to entrance into grade nine.
- e. Health assessments required for ungraded students shall be done in accordance with the acceptable health assessment dates for students of the same age cohort as the ungraded students.

II. High School Interscholastic Sports

- f. High school interscholastic sports include:
 - All sports teams that compete against other schools;
 - All sports clubs that compete against other schools;
 - Cheerleading squads.

III. Countries With a High Prevalence of Tuberculosis

Countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis include those identified as such by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

IV. Information to be Included On Health Assessments

- a. Each health assessment shall include a hematocrit or hemoglobin test, height, weight, blood pressure, screening questions to be answered by the parent or guardian and examiner, an updating of immunizations as needed, vision, hearing, speech and gross dental screenings and such other information as the examiner deems appropriate. Health assessments required in grades 6 and 10 9 and health assessments required for high school interscholastic sports shall also include postural screening. Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, each health assessment shall include a chronic disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to whether the student has a diagnosis of asthma. Health assessments shall include a tuberculosis risk assessment and, if indicated, a Mantoux tuberculin skin test, as required in the Health Assessment policy. The examiner performing the health assessment shall complete and sign the health assessment form and any recommendations concerning the student shall be made in writing.
- b. The results of a chest x-ray may be accepted in lieu of a tuberculin skin test, with the approval of the Nursing Supervisor.

POLICY/ADMINISTRATIVE
REGULATIONS: Health Assessments

4.

- c. Students with a history of a positive Mantoux tuberculin skin test shall have either documentation of a satisfactory follow-up chest x-ray or documentation of completion of a proper course of medical treatment.

V. Procedure for Notification of Parent/Guardian Regarding Health Assessment Requirements

- a. Parents of students registering for school will be given the State of Connecticut Health Assessment form and parent letter regarding health assessment requirements.

At the time of registration, a "Requirement for Registration" form will be signed by the parent or guardian to acknowledge the health assessment requirements if an acceptable health assessment is not presented at the time of registration. The parent or guardian signature will be obtained by the nurse or, in the absence of the nurse, by the Principal or his designee.

- b. For grades Six (6) and **Ten (10):** **Nine (9):**

- In May, the nurse sends State of Connecticut Health Assessment Form and notification **letter** to parents who have children who will enter grade six **next** or **grade 9 in the next** school year.

- In September, the nurse sends State of Connecticut Health Assessment Form and notification letter to parents who have children in grade ten in the public schools.

- In November, **nurse sends a reminder letter notification** to parents of sixth **and ninth** graders **and in January nurse sends reminder letter to parents of tenth graders** if the required health assessment has not yet been received. **This letter includes** information regarding making application for a health assessment to be done in school if parent desires **will be included**. **Nurse sends additional reminders to parents later in the school year as needed.**

- Nurse will attempt to secure all required health assessments prior to the end of the school year and will prepare a list of any students not in compliance prior to the end of the school year. Nurse will submit list to Nursing Supervisor who will recommend to Superintendent or Principal that an additional notice be sent to parents of these students. Nurse will keep list accessible to verify compliance prior to the start of the next school year.

- c. For Interscholastic Sports:

- Athletic department personnel will notify potential sports participants of health assessment requirement **and** provide them with the appropriate form, **and** **provide nurse with a roster.**

- **Health assessments will be submitted to the school nurse. Nurse will notify athletic department personnel of those students who may not participate in a sport due to lack of a satisfactory health assessment.**

POLICY/ADMINISTRATIVE
REGULATIONS: Health Assessments
5.

d. Review of Health Assessments by School Nurse

The School Nurse shall review each health assessment and make recommendation to parents for further evaluation of abnormal results as needed. The School Nurse shall inform the principal and/or other appropriate school personnel of recommendations made on a student's health assessment when indicated.

e. Incomplete Health Assessments

Incomplete health assessments shall be returned to the parent with a letter from the school nurse indicating the information needed for completion. Health assessments done on or after August 15, 2005 which do not contain all information in III a. (above) shall be returned to the parent for completion in the same manner.

No student shall be permitted to enter or continue to attend school or participate in sports until the required health assessment is complete.

f. Recording of Health Assessments

Each health assessment received shall be recorded on and stored in the student's Cumulative Health Record.