Book District Procedure

Section J - Students

Title Immunizations

Code JGCB

Status Active

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IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT

- 1. All students must have a current Georgia Certificate of Immunization as required by law (Ga. Code 20-2-771). This certificate of immunization must be on a form provided by the Georgia Department of Human Resources (Form 3231).
- 2. A valid certificate (Form 3231) must have either the "Date of Expiration" or the "Complete for School Attendance" box marked. For those certificates with a Date of Expiration, a new certificate must be submitted within 30 days after the expiration date or the student must be excluded from school until an updated certificate is submitted.
- 3. For entrance into the Pre-Kindergarten, kindergarten, sixth grade, seventh grade, **[eleventh grade,]** and all new entrants, the immunization certificate must comply with the most current immunization state requirements including the immunization state requirements effective July 1, 2014. **[July 1, 2021]**. New entrants means any child entering any school in Georgia for the first time or entering after having been absent from a Georgia school for more than twelve months or one school year. This information can be reflected on the School Certificate of Immunization Form 3231
- 4. During the registration period prior to the beginning of a school year, do not register a student without a Georgia immunization certificate. These students should be given information regarding immunization requirements and referred to a local physician or health center.
- 5. If the parent/quardian has attempted to obtain the required certificate but is

unsuccessful, the parent/guardian should schedule a conference with the principal or designee. The principal or his/her designee will then decide whether or not to grant a 30-day waiver. If the certificate is not furnished within 30 days, the student must be withdrawn. The school official and the parent should complete and sign the 30-Day Waiver of Immunization Requirement form. The completed waiver should be retained at the school, but a copy of the waiver should be given to the parent for information. Contact Student Health Services if assistance and guidance is needed when granting waivers.

- 6. For a student who has moved from an out-of-state school or a student entering kindergarten or first grade from out-of-state, a special 60-day extension of the 30 day waiver of the immunization certificate requirement can be granted provided (1) documentation is on file at the school from the local health department or a physician specifying that an immunization sequence has been started; (2) the documented immunization time schedule can be completed within 90 days from the date the student first attended a Georgia school; and (3) periodic confirmation is received during the waiver period from the health department or physician that immunizations are being received as scheduled. The parent/guardian and school official must complete the Special 60-Day Extension of Waiver of Immunization Certificate Requirement for Out-Of-State Transfers form and the required documentation must be attached for filing in the school office. The waiver may be extended from the date of admittance or of first attendance, whichever is earlier, after required documentation is on file from the health department or physician specifying that an immunization sequence has been started and that this immunization time schedule can be completed within the 90 day waiver period. If the special extension expires or is voided because of noncompliance with its provisions, the student must be withdrawn until the required certificate is submitted.
- 7. A parent who objects to immunizations on religious grounds must furnish an Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization (DPH Form 2208) Chapter 511-2-2-07 of the Rules of the Department of Public Health **[(DPH)]**. The school must keep the affidavit on file and available for the inspection by health officials in lieu of the Georgia Immunization Certificate (Form 3231). The form does not expire.
- 8. Immunization records from other states and/or records from doctors on forms other than <code>DHR [DPH]</code> forms should be taken by the parent to a local physician or health department for evaluation and transfer to the proper Georgia form (Form 3231).
- 9. Immunization certificates should be filed with the permanent record and/or in a separate file accessible to health officials. Upon withdrawal, immunization certificates should be filed with the permanent record, sent to the new school, or returned to the parent/guardian.
- 10. DHS/DPH will conduct and require an immunization inventory and assessment during the school year.

- 11. Principals should work with the parents and Student Health Services to try to get the required immunizations for each student. A Certificate of Immunization must be on file for each child attending school in Georgia or one of the two state sanctioned exemptions: medical or religious.
- 12. Parents and guardians of children between two and six years of age are urged to have their children immunized at the appropriate age and not to wait until the child is enrolling in school. To promote timely immunization, the School System invites parents and guardians to have their child immunized at the appropriate age and not to wait until the child is enrolling in school. To promote timely immunization, the School System invites parents and guardians to visit their physician or local health department to insure [ensure] that a child has met all the immunization requirements for attendance to school as stipulated by the DHR rules.

Cross References: Policy JGCB - Immunizations