

Policies

Newport Public Schools Students – Administrative Policies - School Health Programs

No. 5220

Page 1 of 3

In accordance with RI Gen. Laws § 16-21-7, the Newport School Health program shall be approved by the state director of the Department of Health and the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program shall provide for the organized direction and supervision of a healthful school environment, health education, and services. The program shall include and provide, within and consistent with existing school facilities, for the administration of such nursing care by certified nurse teachers, as defined in R. I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-8, as shall be requested in writing by the attending physician of any student and authorized in writing by the parent or legal guardian of the student.

No instruction in the characteristics, symptoms, and the treatment of disease shall be given to any child whose parent or guardian shall present a written statement signed by them stating that the instructions should not be given the child because of religious beliefs. Parents/guardians shall be notified of their right to prohibit such instruction.

In accordance with RI Gen. Laws § 16-21-9 the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, shall provide for the appointment of a physician to make examinations of the health of the Newport school children. The physician shall report any deviation from the normal, and shall preserve the records of the examinations of the children.

The School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, shall further provide for dental screenings by a dentist or licensed dental hygienist with at least three (3) years of clinical experience. The dentist or licensed dental hygienist shall report any suspected deviation from the normal and shall preserve of records of the screenings of the children. Dental screenings for children in kindergarten, third, and ninth grade shall only be performed by a licensed dentist. Each school principal shall notify the parents or guardians of children of conditions requiring professional or skilled treatment. Dental hygienists performing the dental screenings following the provisions of this section shall do so under the general supervision of the dentist liable and responsible under the contract with the community.

Except in emergency circumstances, referral by a dentist or dental hygienist of children screened pursuant to the provisions of this policy to a dental practice by which the dentist or dental hygienist is employed

Policies

Newport Public Schools Students – Administrative Policies - School Health Programs

No. 5220

Page 2 of 3

and/or which the dentist owns shall be strictly prohibited. In the event that a referral is made in violation of this provision, the school department shall cancel its contract with the dentist and such conduct shall be reported to the Board of Dental Examiners.

Each school shall provide to parents or guardians of children who require professional or skilled treatment a list of both dental practices in Newport that accept patients insured by Medical Assistance and/or RiteCare and dental practices that provide services on a sliding scale basis to uninsured individuals. The Superintendent may obtain from the Rhode Island Department of Human Services a list containing the addresses and telephone numbers of both dental practices that accept patients insured by Medical Assistance and/or RiteCare and dental practices which provide services on a sliding scale basis to uninsured individuals.

In accordance with RI Gen. Laws § 16-21-10 each school shall provide for the yearly screening or examination for scoliosis of all school children in grades six (6) through eight (8) and the preservation of records of the screening or examinations of those children. The parent or guardian of any such child may have the screening or examination conducted by a private physician and the results thereof shall be made available to the school department. Otherwise, a certified nurse-teacher shall conduct the screening. The screening of male and female pupils shall be conducted separately. The parent or guardian of any child who is found to have positive signs or symptoms of scoliosis shall be notified of the findings.

However, the test shall not be required of any student whose parents or guardians objects on the ground that the test conflicts with their religious belief.

In accordance with R. I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-14 the Superintendent shall arrange for examinations of the hearing, speech, and vision of all children in the Newport schools, and the preservation of records of the examinations of the children and notification of the parent or guardian of any child where there is a deviation from the normal.

Beginning with the first year of enrollment, all school children in grades kindergarten through twelve (12) shall be given a hearing screening test by a properly trained audiometrist employed by the department of

Policies

Newport Public Schools Students – Administrative Policies - School Health Programs

No. 5220

Page 3 of 3

elementary and secondary education, at least once every three (3) years.

Pupils who failed the hearing screening test in previous years, children who repeat a grade, those with a history of hearing difficulty or pathology, and those suspected by school personnel of a hearing loss shall be screened as often as is necessary.

The hearing screening program shall be conducted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Tests shall not be required of any student whose parent or guardian objects on the ground that the tests conflict with their religious beliefs.

References

[RI Gen. Laws § 16-21-7; §16-21-8; §16-21-9; §16-21-10; §16-21-14](#)

[Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs \[MSWord Format\]](#)

[Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs \[PDF Format\]](#)

[Commissioner's Decision: Woonsocket Teachers' Guild v. Woonsocket School Committee](#)

[Supreme Court Ruling: Woonsocket Teachers' Guild, Local 951, AFT v. Woonsocket School Committee](#)

History: JHC, 1978; JHCA