

PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

JLCA – PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF STUDENTS

Category: Recommended

Related Policies: JFABD, JLC & JLCD

General

Each child must have a complete physical examination within one year preceding first entry to school. Parents of students transferring to the District must present proof of meeting the physical examination requirement prior to or upon first entry into the District's schools. Failure to comply with this provision may result in the child's exclusion from attending school.

The School District strongly encourages parents to update the school nurses with any changes to a student's physical health.

Conditional Enrollment

If an examination has not been performed within the preceding year, the school will accept documentation of an appointment for a physical examination within a reasonable time.

Homeless Students and Unaccompanied Youth

Pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Act and Board Policy JFABD, homeless students and/or unaccompanied youth, may enroll and attend school while the Homeless Liaison works with the family/student to obtain examinations or documentation of the same.

Special Examination

Pursuant to RSA 200:34 every child with a presenting problem and whom the school nurse deems to require further evaluation, may be referred by the school nurse, with the consent of the principal, to the parents or guardian of said child for examination, and evaluation by an appropriate practitioner. If the parents fail or neglect to have said child so examined and fail to present the recommendations from said medical practitioner within a reasonable period after the referral by the school, then said child may be examined by a qualified healthcare provider. In significant cases, the matter may be reported to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) pursuant to JLF.

Religious Exemption

No medical examination shall be required of a child whose parent or guardian objects thereto in writing on the grounds such medical examination is contrary to his/her religious tenets and teachings.

Participation on Athletic Teams

Prior to participation on a school athletic team, students must provide written documentation that they have passed a physical. Such exams must be completed at least once every school year. This requirement does not apply to students participating in intramural athletics.

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No child shall be excused from regular physical education except on the written notice of a duly licensed healthcare provider or on the written request of the parents, subject to the Superintendent’s approval, in which case an alternative program shall be provided. The physical education teacher, school nurse, or principal, upon the request of the parents, may grant temporary excuses on a case-by-case basis.

Additional Provisions Concerning Pupil Privacy Rights Amendment: Non-Emergency Physical Exams or Screenings

Pursuant to the Pupil Privacy Rights Amendment (the “PPRA”), on an annual basis (i.e., beginning of school year packet), the District shall notify parents/guardians of specific or approximate dates during the School year physical exam or screening is scheduled or is to be scheduled. For any such exam or screening that was not included in the annual notice, the District will provide notice to parents no less than ten days prior to the exam or screening. Additionally, parents/guardians have the right under the PPRA to opt their child out of any “invasive physical examination” that:

- a. IS required as a condition of attendance;
- b. IS administered by the District and scheduled by a District School in advance;
- c. IS NOT necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students; AND
- d. IS NOT otherwise required or permitted under New Hampshire law.

For purposes of this section, and pursuant to the PPRA, “invasive physical examination” means “any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.”

See Appendix: JLCA-R1 & JLCD-R

District Policy History:

Adopted: April, 2003

Revised: October, 2004

Revised: February, 2007

Revised: December 21, 2022

Revised: December 6, 2023

Legal References:

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. §1232h; 34 C.F.R. Part 98

RSA 141-C:20-c, Exemptions

RSA 200:32, Physical Examination of Pupils

RSA 200:34, Special Examination

RSA 200:38, Control and Prevention of Communicable Diseases: Duties of School Nurse

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 311.03, Physical Examination of Students