



The Laboratory Charter School of Communication and Languages

Student Health Services Policy

Reviewed and Revised: August 2022

I. Introduction

Laboratory Charter School is fully committed to the health and well-being of all students, recognizing that a healthy student is better positioned to succeed academically and socially. To this end, we adhere to the health services requirements mandated by Chapter 23 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code. This policy outlines the comprehensive health services, screenings, and immunization processes required to ensure compliance with state laws and support the overall health and development of our students.

II. Required Health Examinations

In alignment with §23.1 and §23.2 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, Laboratory Charter School requires the following health examinations to be conducted at specific grade levels:

- **Medical Examinations:**
 - **Grades K/1, 6, and 11:** A thorough medical examination is required at original entry into school (either in Kindergarten or 1st Grade), and again in Grade 6 and Grade 11. These examinations are critical for identifying any potential health issues that may affect a student's ability to learn and thrive in a school environment.
 - **Transfer Students:** Any student transferring from another school system must undergo a medical examination if an adequate health record is not provided. This ensures continuity in health monitoring and care.
- **Dental Examinations:**
 - **Grades K/1, 3, and 7:** Dental examinations are required at the initial entry into school, and again in Grades 3 and 7. Dental health is essential for overall well-being, and these regular checks help to prevent and address oral health issues that can impact a student's quality of life and learning.
- **Vision Screenings:**
 - **All Grades, Annually:** Vision screenings are conducted annually for all students. The Snellen Chart or another approved device is used to assess visual acuity and identify students who may require further evaluation by an eye care professional.

This screening is critical as vision problems can significantly impact a student's ability to read, write, and participate in classroom activities.

- **Hearing Screenings:**
 - **Grades K/1, 2, 3, 7, and 11:** Annual hearing screenings are conducted for students in Kindergarten or 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 7th Grade, and 11th Grade. These screenings help identify students with hearing difficulties that could interfere with their academic performance and social interactions.
- **Growth (Height & Weight) Screenings:**
 - **All Grades, Annually:** Height and weight measurements are taken at least once annually to monitor each student's growth pattern. This screening helps identify potential health issues such as obesity or growth disorders, ensuring that students receive appropriate support and intervention.
- **Scoliosis Screenings:**
 - **Grades 6 and 7:** Scoliosis screenings are conducted for students in Grades 6 and 7 to detect any abnormal curvature of the spine. Early detection of scoliosis is crucial for effective treatment and prevention of long-term health issues.
- **Tuberculosis Tests:**
 - **Grades K/1 and 9:** A tuberculosis test is required upon original entry into school and again in Grade 9. This test is important for the early detection of tuberculosis, which can spread rapidly in a school environment if not identified and treated promptly.

III. Maintenance of Medical and Dental Records

Laboratory Charter School is required to maintain comprehensive medical and dental records for each student, as specified in §23.8 of the PA Public School Code. These records include the results of all health examinations and screenings, immunization records, and any other relevant health information.

- **Record Accessibility:** Health records are kept in the school building where the student is enrolled, ensuring that they are readily accessible to the school nurse and authorized personnel.
- **Transfer of Records:** When a student transfers to another school, their health records are transferred with them, ensuring continuity in health care and monitoring.

IV. Immunization Requirements

In compliance with §23.83 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, Laboratory Charter School requires all students to be fully immunized according to state guidelines. Immunizations are crucial in preventing the spread of infectious diseases and maintaining a safe school environment.

- **Documentation:** Parents/guardians must provide a written record of all required immunizations at the time of enrollment. This documentation must include the dates of each vaccine administered and be signed by a healthcare provider.
- **Provisional Admittance:** Students who are not fully immunized may be provisionally admitted under certain conditions outlined in §23.85(e). The school will monitor these

students to ensure that they receive the necessary immunizations within the required timeframe.

- **Exemptions:** Exemptions from immunization requirements may be granted for medical reasons, religious beliefs, or strong moral or ethical convictions, as outlined in §23.84. Documentation supporting the exemption must be provided.

V. Compliance and Monitoring

Laboratory Charter School has established procedures to ensure compliance with all mandated health services and immunization requirements. These procedures include regular monitoring, record-keeping, and reporting as required by state law.

- **School Responsibilities:**
 - The school administration is responsible for ensuring that all health screenings, examinations, and immunizations are conducted in accordance with state regulations. The school nurse plays a central role in coordinating these services and maintaining accurate health records.
- **Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:**
 - Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring that their children meet all health examination and immunization requirements. This includes providing accurate and up-to-date health records to the school and ensuring that their child attends all scheduled health screenings.
- **State Reporting:**
 - As required by §23.86, Laboratory Charter School will report immunization data to the Pennsylvania Department of Health by December 31 of each year. The school will also submit reports to the county health department if applicable. These reports include detailed information about immunization rates, exemptions, and provisional admissions.

VI. Health Services Personnel

Laboratory Charter School employs qualified health professionals to provide the required health services:

- **School Nurses:** School nurses, certified by the Department of Education, are responsible for conducting screenings, maintaining health records, and coordinating health services. They also provide first aid and emergency care, manage chronic health conditions, and support the overall health and wellness of students.
- **School Physicians and Dentists:** School physicians and dentists, employed by the school district, conduct the required medical and dental examinations. They also provide consultations, vaccinations, and other health services as needed.
- **Additional Health Personnel:** The school may also employ medical technicians, dental hygienists, and other health professionals to support the delivery of comprehensive health services.

VII. Special Health Considerations

- **Special Examinations:** As outlined in §23.11, students who are identified as deviating from normal growth and development patterns may be referred for special examinations. The results of these examinations are reported to parents/guardians, and appropriate follow-up care is arranged.
- **Objections to Examinations on Religious Grounds:** Students may be excused from regular or special medical or dental examinations if their parents or guardians present a written statement that the examinations are contrary to their religious beliefs, as specified in §23.45. However, exemptions may not be granted if they pose a substantial health risk to others.

VIII. First Aid and Emergency Care

The school nurse is responsible for providing first aid and emergency care to students in need. The school also has an established protocol for managing medical emergencies, including contacting emergency services, notifying parents/guardians, and providing necessary care until the student can be transported to a medical facility.

IX. Coordination with Community Health Programs

Laboratory Charter School works closely with community health providers, local health departments, and other organizations to coordinate health services and ensure that students receive comprehensive care. This includes referrals to outside providers for specialized services, collaboration with public health initiatives, and participation in community health programs.

X. Training and Education

The school provides ongoing training for staff members on health-related topics, including first aid, emergency response, and the management of chronic health conditions. The school also educates students and parents about health and wellness, the importance of immunizations, and the services available through the school's health program.

XI. Review and Updates

This Health Services Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure continued compliance with state laws and regulations. Any updates to the policy will be communicated to students, parents, and staff in a timely manner, ensuring that the school community remains informed of their rights and responsibilities.

XII. Conclusion

Laboratory Charter School's Health Services Policy is designed to promote the health and well-being of all students. By adhering to state-mandated health services and immunization requirements, we strive to create a safe and supportive learning environment where all students can thrive. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact the school nurse or administration with any questions or concerns regarding this policy.

