

Immunization Policy

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate of statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, that the student will not be immunized.

The school nurse can provide you with information on age-appropriate doses or an acceptable physician-validated history of illness as required by the Department of State Health Services. Acceptable forms of proof of vaccination are: records from prior school district, personal record from a physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber stamp validation, or information obtained from the IMMTRAC website.

Beginning of School Year-

Students who are deficient in vaccinations will not be allowed to start the first day of school, except under limited circumstances as required by law. Students should obtain the necessary vaccinations in the summer and provide proof to the school health office prior to the first day of school. If you need information on places to obtain a vaccine, the school nurse can provide you with that information.

Students who are able to provide proof of at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine will be allowed to enroll provisionally for 30 days. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as medically feasible.

At the end of the 30 day period, if the student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and will be excluded from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

Exceptions to this policy are limited to homeless students, as defined by Section 103 of the McKinney Act, 42 USC Subsection 11302. These students can be admitted temporarily for 30 days if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available.

Transfer Students from Other Texas Schools-

Students can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if he/she transfers from a different Texas school district and is awaiting the transfer of immunization records. If at the end of 30 days the records have not been provided, or the student is found to be deficient in vaccinations, they will be excluded from school attendance as outlined above.

Transfer Students from Out of State Schools and Home School-

Transfer students from out of state/ home school will not be permitted to start school without providing proof of immunizations. They must have at least one dose of each age-appropriate vaccine to start school. There is no provisional enrollment allowed for these students while awaiting their immunization records, as outlined by TAC 97.69.

Students with Parents on Active Duty in the Military-

Dependents of a person who is on active duty with the armed forces of the United States can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if he/she transfers from one school to another and is awaiting the transfer of their immunization records.

Medical Exemptions-

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition. (For further information, see policy FFAB (LEGAL) and the Department of State Health Services Web site)

Exemptions for Reason of Conscience-

For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services, Immunization Branch, can be honored by the district. This form may be obtained by mail or online. The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student. This form must be renewed every 2 years. Photocopies of the affidavit are not valid. If the parent loses the original form, they must request a new one.