

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AND IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Student Immunizations Policy

The laws of the state of South Dakota require that students receive specified immunizations prior to their admission to school. It is the intent of the board of education to comply with the law through implementation of the following requirements and procedures.

A. Requirements

It is required that appropriate school authorities receive for each student a certification from a licensed health official stating that the student has received or is in the process of receiving adequate immunizations against those diseases specified in the law. As an alternative to the requirement for a certification, the law allows the student to present the following:

1. Certification from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child would be such that a test or immunization would endanger the child's life or health.
2. Religious exemption signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such test and immunization.

B. Student Immunizations Procedures

To comply with the South Dakota State law, the following procedures have been developed:

1. At the time of initial entrance of a student into the Rapid City Area Schools, the appropriate certification or one of the alternative statements will be required from the parent or guardian.
2. All kindergarten students and students from outside the United States who enroll will have all age appropriate immunizations completed before the first day of attendance.
3. Students in grades 1-12 entering the Rapid City Area Schools will be allowed two (2) weeks to present verification of their completed immunizations. If the proper certification is not presented by that time indicating that the immunizations have been completed, the student will be excluded from attendance.

4. All students who initially enroll in the Rapid City Area Schools will have all state required age appropriate immunizations completed or in progress before they attend school.
5. The school secretary will review immunization records. The immunizations will be monitored by the school nurse.
6. In those cases where parents fail to see that their child is properly immunized, causing the child to be excluded from school, child neglect proceedings will be initiated by the building principal.

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