

## SANDWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS IMMUNIZATION EXCLUSION POLICY

When a student does not meet full immunization requirements in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Massachusetts General Law Title XII Chapter 76 Section 15 (<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter76/section15>), the following steps will be taken:

1. Notification of missing immunizations will be sent to the parent / guardian with an exclusion date within 30 days of the start of the school year
2. If after 21 days, the student remains non-compliant, the parent/guardian will be called to discern the reason for non-compliance
3. Only if a documented appointment with a licensed medical provider has been made, will the student be allowed to attend school
4. The student shall be excluded from school 3 weeks from notification if no immunization was received, no appointment has been made or the proper medical or religious exemption documentation has not been provided.

Students who qualify for waivers under the [McKinney-Vento Act](#) as determined by the McKinney-Vento Act school liaison, will be permitted to attend school and be referred to the building nurse or nursing department head for guidance and referral for medical care assistance.

### **§11431. Statement of policy**

*The following is the policy of the Congress:*

- (1) Each State educational agency shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.*
- (2) In any State where compulsory residency requirements or other requirements, in laws, regulations, practices, or policies, may act as a barrier to the identification of, or the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of, homeless children and youths, the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youths are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths.*
- (3) Homelessness is not a sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.*
- (4) Homeless children and youths should have access to the education and other services that such children and youths need to ensure that such children and youths have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held.*

*(Pub. L. 100-77, title VII, §721, as added Pub. L. 107-110, title X, §1032, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1989; amended Pub. L. 114-95, title IX, §9101, Dec. 10, 2015, 129 Stat. 2124.)*

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Immunization exclusion policy specifics are developed and enforced at the local level in consultation with local boards of health

**Medical Exemption** "A child shall be admitted to school upon certification by a physician that he has personally examined such a child and that in his opinion the physical condition of the child is such that his health would be endangered by such vaccination or by any of such immunizations. Such certification shall be submitted at the beginning of each school year to the physician in charge of the school health program. If the physician in charge of the school health program does not agree with the opinion of the child's physician, the matter shall be referred to the department of public health, whose decision will be final."

**Religious Exemption** "In the absence of an emergency or epidemic of disease declared by the department of public health, no child whose parent or guardian states in writing that vaccination or immunization conflicts with his sincere religious beliefs shall be required to present said physician's certificate in order to be admitted to school. Such certification shall be submitted at the beginning of each school year."

The most up to date Immunization schedules may be found at:

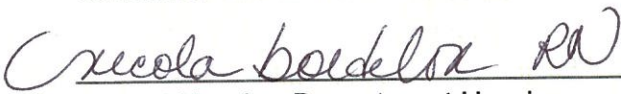
[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations#school-and-camp-requirements-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations#school-and-camp-requirements)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
School Physician

12/18/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandwich Director of Public Health

1/24/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
School Nursing Department Head

1/31/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date