

IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS

The District in accordance with state law requires that any pupil entering school shall, prior to admission, be required to present to school authorities certification from a licensed physician that he or she has received, or is in the process of receiving, adequate immunization for childhood diseases. This applies to all children, pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, who are entering a South Dakota school system. Immunizations are determined by the South Dakota Department of Health.

As an alternative to the required physician's certification, the parent may present:

1. Certification from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child is such that a test or immunization would endanger the child's life or health; or
2. A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to medical tests and immunization.
3. A written statement signed by one parent or guardian requesting that the local health department give the immunization because the parents or guardians lack the means to pay for such immunization.

At the time of school registration, parents/guardians are to be informed of the requirement that their child(ren) will not be able to attend school until an up to date immunization record is received, reviewed and approved as to compliancy by a school nurse. Following the parents signing a release of information form, previous schools or clinics can be asked for fax immunization records to the new school.

In cases where the certification indicates that immunizations have been begun but are not complete, or when records are reportedly being sent from another community, students in grades Pre K-12 will be allowed temporary admittance for a period of time while the principal works with the parents to comply with the policy. If parents refuse to comply, students will be excluded from school.

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