

4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS

Definitions

"In process" means the student has received at least one dose of the required immunizations and is waiting the minimum time interval to receive the additional dose(s).

"Serologic testing" refers to a medical procedure used to determine an individual's immunity to Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella.

General Requirements

Unless otherwise provided by law or this policy, no student shall be admitted to attend classes in the District who has not been age appropriately immunized against:

- Poliomyelitis;
- Diphtheria;
- Tetanus;
- Pertussis;
- Red (rubeola) measles;
- Rubella;
- Mumps;
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B;
- Meningococcal disease;
- Varicella (chickenpox); and
- Any other immunization required by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

In order for a student to attend school in the District, the student must meet the requirements of this policy, the Bryant School District Elementary Handbook or Bryant School District Secondary Handbook (as appropriate), Arkansas law, the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Immunization Requirements, and the Arkansas Department of Health Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization Requirements.

Specific immunization requirements, including the type, dosage, and timing of immunizations, shall be included in the Bryant School District Elementary Handbook and the Bryant School District Secondary Handbook. Periodically, statewide changes are made to immunization requirements. Sometimes these changes result in additional, required immunizations. When such changes occur, the Bryant School District Nursing Department will inform parents and guardians.

The District administration has the responsibility to evaluate the immunization status of District students. The District shall maintain a list of all students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or who have an exemption provided by ADH to the immunization requirements based on medical, religious, or philosophical grounds. Students who are not fully age appropriately immunized when seeking admittance shall be referred to a medical authority for consultation.

In order to attend classes in the Bryant School District, the student, student's parent, or student's guardian should submit one of the following upon registration or before the first day of school attendance:

1. Proof of up-to-date immunizations;
2. Written documentation from a public health nurse or private physician of proof that the student is in process of being age-appropriately immunized, which includes a schedule of the student's next immunization(s);
3. A copy of a letter from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) indicating immunity based on serologic testing (a medical procedure used to determine an individual's immunity to Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella; or
4. Immunization Exemption in the State of Arkansas: Parents may obtain information regarding immunization exemptions from the ADH, Arkansas.gov, or by calling 501-661-2169. Parents or guardians should:
 - a. Annually apply for an Arkansas exemption, preferably in June or July or any time a student enrolls. Exemption requests sometimes require two to four weeks for processing.
 - b. Provide a notarized copy of the ADH application to the school nurse. Notarized applications will only be valid for two weeks.
 - c. Provide a copy of the ADH Immunization Exemption Approval letter to the school nurse.

NOTE: A student enrolled in the District with an immunization exemption may be removed from school during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated at the discretion of ADH. The student may not return to school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the ADH.

The only types of proof of immunization the District will accept are immunization records provided by a:

1. Licensed physician;
2. Health department;
3. Military service; or
4. Official record from another educational institution in Arkansas.

Students whose immunization records or serology results are lost or unavailable are required to receive all age appropriate vaccinations or submit items 1-4 above.

The proof of immunization must include the vaccine type and dates of vaccine administration. Documents stating "up-to-date", "complete", "adequate", and the like will not be accepted as proof of immunization. No self or parental history of varicella disease will be accepted. Valid proof of immunization and of immunity based on serological testing shall be entered into the student's record.

Temporary Admittance

The following students who have not fulfilled the above requirements may be admitted to school on a temporary basis:

1. Students enrolling in a District school and living in the household of a person on active duty. Those students have thirty (30) days to receive their initial required immunizations and 12 months to be up to date on the required immunizations for the student's age.
2. Students entering school after the first day of school, from out of state, or from another country will have thirty (30) days from admittance to comply with Arkansas requirements. Students entering the District from within the State of Arkansas must be current with all required Arkansas immunizations.
3. Students who turn 11 or 16 years of age between the first day of school and September 1 of that school year will be given two (2) weeks after their birthday to obtain the required immunizations.

Students who are in process shall be required to adhere to the submitted schedule. Failure of the student to submit written documentation from a public health nurse or private physician demonstrating the student received the vaccinations set forth in the schedule may lead to the revocation of the student's temporary admittance; such students shall be excluded from school until the documentation is provided. For questions, please contact your health care provider, school nurse, or the Saline County Health Unit at (501) 303-5650.

The District will not accept copies of applications requesting an exemption for the current school year that are older than two (2) weeks based on the date on the application. Students who submit a copy of an application to receive an exemption from the immunization requirements for the current year to gain temporary admittance have thirty (30) days from the admission date to submit either a letter from ADH granting the exemption or documentation demonstrating the student is in process and a copy of the immunization schedule. Failure to submit the necessary documentation by the close of the thirty (30) days will result in the student being excluded until the documentation is submitted.

Exclusion From School

In the event of an outbreak, students who are not fully age appropriately immunized, are in process, or are exempt from the immunization requirements may be required to be excluded from school in order to protect the student. ADH shall determine if it is necessary for students to be excluded in the event of an outbreak. Students may be excluded for twenty-one (21) days or longer depending on the outbreak. No student excluded due to an outbreak shall be allowed to return to school until the District receives approval from ADH.

Students who are excluded from school are not eligible to receive homebound instruction unless the excluded student had a pre-existing IEP or 504 Plan and the IEP/504 team determines homebound instruction to be in the best interest of the student. To the extent possible, the student's teacher(s) shall place in the principal's office a copy of the student's assignments:

- for the remainder of the week by the end of the initial school day of the student's exclusion; and
- by the end of each school's calendar week for the upcoming week until the student returns to school.

It is the responsibility of the student or the student's parent/legal guardian to make sure that the student's assignments are collected.

Students excluded from school shall have five (5) school days from the day the student returns to school to submit any homework and to make up any examinations. State mandated assessments are not included in “examinations” and the District has no control over administering state mandated make-up assessments outside of the state's schedule. Students shall receive a grade of zero for any assignment or examination not completed or submitted on time.

Cross References: 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
 BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK
 BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT SECONDARY HANDBOOK

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-702
 ADE Rules Governing Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Immunization Requirements
 In Arkansas Public Schools
 ADH Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization Requirements

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