

Immunization Law and Records



Before a child can be permitted to enter or attend school, parents or guardians must present documentation that the child is current with all immunizations required by law (or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements). That means that the child has received all required doses of vaccines or has received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines and is waiting to receive the subsequent doses of each of them at the appropriate time intervals. Contact your child's principal for information about specific immunization requirements.

Should your child not have the necessary immunizations or waivers, the building principal may exclude him or her from school or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law.

The department of community health has asked schools to notify parents of a vaccine that can protect children and adolescents from meningitis. This is a serious illness caused by bacteria which infects the blood or tissue around the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms include fever, chills, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, rash, and confusion. Please see your child's health care provider or health department for further information.

New Communicable Disease Rules Requirements

Required for all children entering Kindergarten, all Sixth Grade students and all children changing school districts:

- **Two doses of varicella (Var) vaccine or history of chickenpox disease**

Required for all children 11-18 years of age who are changing school districts or who are enrolled in 6th grade:

- **One dose of meningococcal (MCV4 or MPSV4) vaccine**
- **One dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. (If 5 years have passed since last dose of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine—DTaP, Td or DT)**

Notification in Regards to Use of Medications

The Board of Education shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication and/or medically-prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, or the child is disabled and requires medication to benefit from his/her educational program.

For the purposes of this notification, "medication" shall include all medi-

cines including those prescribed by a physician and any nonprescribed (over-the-counter) drugs, preparations, and/or remedies.

"Treatment" refers both to the manner in which a medication is administered and to health-care procedures which require special training.

Before any medication or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the District requires the written prescription from the child's physician accompanied by the written authorization of the parent or guardian. This document shall be kept on file in the school office.

Note: *The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and legal counsel have made recommendations to limit, and in some cases restrict, school personnel in regards to administering medications and treatment to students in schools for liability reasons. The MDE established a model set of guidelines and procedures that are to be considered for implementation. More information will be shared in school newsletters as information is finalized.*



Notice of Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior knowledge of his or her parent or guardian, or student (if eighteen (18) years or over) to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents or guardians;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents or guardians; or
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, the administration will ensure that procedures are established whereby parents or guardians may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Notice in Regards to Blood-Borne Pathogens

The River Valley School District is subject to regulations from OSHA to restrict the spread of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immune deficiency virus (HIV) in the workplace. These regulations are designed to protect employees of the District who are, or could be exposed to blood or other contaminated bodily fluids while performing their job duties.

Because of the very serious consequences of contracting HBV or HIV, the District may request the person who was bleeding to consent to be tested for HBV and HIV. This information would then be provided both to the exposed employee and the treating physician to determine proper medical treatment.

The law does not require parents or guardians to grant permission for the examination of their child's blood, but it does require the District to request that consent. Although we have taken precautions to train our employees who may have the greatest exposure to blood or other contaminated bodily fluids, and expect that incidents of exposure will be few, we want to notify parents and guardians of these requirements ahead of time. That way, if the situation does develop, you will understand the reason for our request and will have had an opportunity to consider it in advance. These are serious diseases, and we sincerely hope that through proper precautions and cooperation we can prevent them from spreading.

Memorandum to Parents Regarding School Board Policy on Drug-free Schools

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs includes any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance, or any performance enhancing drug (use of a performance enhancing drug is a violation that will affect a student's athletic eligibility and extra curricular participation) as defined by State statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Com-

pliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials.

The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which s/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents

should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.



Notice of Preparedness

The school district is concerned for the safety of our students and we attempt to comply with Federal and State laws and regulations to protect our students. In that effort, we will continue to hold tornado, fire, and lockdown drills to prepare our students from hazards that may result from weather conditions or accidents beyond the control of school officials. Also, we will continue to hold re-inspections for asbestos materials used in previous construction. Mr. Robert Payne, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, will be in charge of any re-inspections.

Publication Release

As students participate in school activities, there may be opportunities for the school district to put their pictures, school work, and/or names on the District website; or in publications such as District or school newsletters, local newspapers, etc. If the parent or student objects to the releasing of directory information, a letter should be filed with the respective building administrator stating the objection. Any questions should be directed to your child's principal.



Notice of Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

All parents and guardians of students under eighteen (18) years of age, and all students eighteen (18) years of age and over have certain rights pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. They are:

1. The right to examine one's student records. Parents and guardians must adhere to the procedures found in Board Policy. A copy of these procedures can be requested from the Office of the Superintendent. This request must be in writing.
2. The right to have the administration hear evidence that any part of the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates a student's privacy or other rights; and to have the records changed if the administration agrees with the applicant's evidence, or to have inserted an explanation in the record if the administration disagrees.
3. The right to have records which personally refer to a student kept confidential except either by consent of the parent or guardian, or adult student, or when being used by school personnel for school business. Certain official agencies may also request records.
4. The following information may be available for publication in directories, sports programs, and so forth. Student's name, address, telephone number, date, place of birth, major field of study, participation in school activities, dates of attendance, honors and awards, and other similar information. If a parent or guardian, or adult student, does not wish this information to become available for publication, written notice must be given to the building principal by September 30 of this school year. Any notification received after that will be honored as soon as possible.
5. The right to obtain a copy of the Board of Education Policy on Privacy of Student Records from the Superintendent's Office.
6. The right to protest if the school district is not complying with the Family Rights and Privacy Act or the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) rules, by contacting:

*The Family Education Rights
and Privacy Act Office
Department of Health,
Education, and Welfare
330 Independence Ave., SW
Washington D.C. 20201*

Notice of Review of Instructional Materials and Activities

Parents or guardians have the right to review any instructional materials being used in the school. They also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in reproductive health and

HIV/AIDS education. Any parent or guardian who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the building principal prior to coming to the school or class. Parent or guardians' rights to re-

view teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

Notice of Armed Forces Recruitment

According to federal legislation, the District must provide at least the same access to the high school and to student directory information of the students enrolled in the high school as is provided to other entities offering educational or employment opportunities to official recruiting representatives of all of the following for the purpose of informing students of educational and career opportunities available in the armed forces of the United States and the service academics of the armed forces of the United States. "Armed forces of the United States" means the armed forces of the United States and their reserve components and the United States Coast Guard.



If the parent or guardian, or the student (if eighteen (18) years or older) submits a signed, written request to the building administration that indicates that he or she does not want the student's directory information to be accessible to official recruiting representatives then the school officials of the school shall not allow access to this information. Male students age 18 are reminded of the requirement to register for the selective service.

Notice of Professional Teacher Qualifications

If your child attends Chikaming or Three Oaks Elementary School or River Valley Middle School, those schools receive federal funds from the Title I, Part A program. The Title I, Part A program is a supplemental program that is designed to assist students with reaching high academic standards. In receiving funds from this program, the District has a requirement to inform parents/guardians that they are entitled to request and receive information in regards to the qualifications of their child's teacher. Parents or guardians have the right to know whether the Michigan Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches or whether the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations based on special circumstances. They can request the teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degree(s) and, if so, the subject of the degrees. A parent or guardian can also ask whether any teacher assistants, or similar paraprofessionals, provide any services to the child and, if they do, their qualifications. If you would like to receive any of this information, please place your request in writing and direct your request to your child's principal.