

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School

Board of Trustees Policy

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY

In compliance with the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board of Trustees ("Board") shall require that the Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School ("Charter School") students submit to appropriate health and dental examinations to ensure each student's health status is at an optimal level and that achievement is not lessened as a result of unresolved or undiagnosed health problems.

Each student shall receive a comprehensive health examination upon original entry into school and in sixth and eleventh grades. These examinations shall be conducted by the school physician or school nurse practitioner. In lieu of the medical or dental examinations prescribed by this article, any child of school age may furnish the local school officials with a medical or dental report of examination made at his own expense by his family physician or family dentist on a form approved by the Secretary of Health for this purpose. The in-lieu/private examinations shall be made and the report shall be furnished prior to the date fixed for the regularly scheduled examination but no earlier than one year prior to the opening of the school term during which the regular examination is scheduled.

Annual vision tests shall also be given to each student. Other tests as determined by the Pennsylvania Advisory Health Board shall be as follows: hearing tests for children upon original entry into school and in kindergarten, and grades one, two, three, seven and eleven; annual height and weight examinations for children in kindergarten through 12th grade including body mass index; dental exams upon original entry into school and in grades three and seven and scoliosis screening in grades six and seven.

Each student shall receive a comprehensive dental examination upon entry into school and in grades three and seven. These examinations will be conducted by the school dentist or dental hygienist. A private examination conducted at the parents' request and at their expense will be accepted in lieu of the school examination.

For each student transferring to the Charter School, the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") shall request an adequate health record from the transferring school. If the record is not transferred or missing necessary documentation, the Charter School shall conduct a medical exam for a comprehensive health appraisal upon student's entry to the Charter

School.

The individual student records of health examinations shall be maintained as a confidential record subject to statute and the policies of the Board.

A student who presents a statement signed by his/her parent or guardian that a medical examination is contrary to his/her religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that the student presents a substantial health menace to the health of other persons exposed to contact with the unexamined person(s).

Where it appears to school health officials or teachers that a child deviates from normal growth and development or where school examinations reveal conditions requiring health or dental care, the parent or guardian of the student shall be so informed and a recommendation shall be made that the parent consult a private physician or dentist. The parent shall be required to report to the school the action taken subsequent to such notification.

When the parents or guardians inform the Charter School of financial inability to provide an examination, charter school shall advise them of the special school medical procedures available.

Parents and guardians of students who are to be examined shall be notified of such examinations. The notice shall include the date and location of the examination and encouragement that the parent or guardian attend. Such notice may also include notification that the parent may have the examination conducted privately at the parents' expense and encouragement that the parent do so in the interest of providing continuity in the student's health care; and, notification that the student may be exempted from such examination if it is contrary to the parents' religious beliefs.

Delegation of Responsibility

- 1) The CEO shall instruct all staff members to observe students continually for conditions that indicate physical defect or disability and to report such conditions promptly to the school nurse.
- 2) When a CEO receives a report of the existence of a communicable disease in a student's family, the school physician, school nurse practitioner or nurse must be notified and vice versa and also the Department of Health in either circumstance.
- 3) A pupil with a communicable disease may not be readmitted to school except upon written receipt of a physician's certificate of recovery or a statement that

the illness is not communicable, or upon instruction from the school physician, school nurse practitioner, or nurse.

The Pennsylvania Public School Code requires specific health screenings, based on grade level, to all students in Pennsylvania. These are considered screenings and are not to be a substitute for regular checkups with a pediatrician. School nurses perform the following health screenings:

- Growth Screening (height and weight)-All grades K-12
- Vision Screening –All grades K-12
- Hearing Screening –Grades K, 1,2,3,7,11
- Scoliosis Screening (curvature of the back)-Grade 6,7
- Dental Examinations

The Board of Trustees of the Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School (“Charter School”) recognizes the necessity that school children be immunized against diseases which spread easily in schools and interrupt school life and learning for individuals and groups. Due to changes in the Pennsylvania Department of Health Regulations effective August 1, 2017, this Policy supersedes and replaces all prior policies regarding student immunizations and is in effect beginning August 1, 2017.

In accordance with applicable Pennsylvania regulations, a student shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend school unless the immunization, exemption or provisional admission requirements of the Department of Health, at 28 Pa. Code Chapter 23, Subchapter C (relating to immunization), have been met or the student has received from the Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) or his/her designee a medical or religious exemption from immunization under 28 Pa. Code § 23.84 (relating to exemption from immunization). 22 Pa. Code. Chapter 11.20.

In accordance with Title 28, Chapter 23.83 of the Pennsylvania Code, as of August 1, 2017, the Board of Trustees directs the CEO or his/her designee to ascertain that each student has been immunized in accordance with the regulations set forth in Title 28 Pa. Code Chapter 23.81-87 and further directs the CEO or his/her designee, in conjunction with the school nurse, to oversee the school’s adherence to the requirements set forth in the applicable regulations and this Immunization Policy as well as any additional applicable immunization requirements mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health:

The below are the immunizations that will be required as a condition of attendance at school as of **August 1, 2017**. The CEO, in conjunction with the school nurse, is directed to monitor changes in state regulations regarding immunization requirements and to ensure that the school complies with applicable immunization requirements:

All Grades for New School Year

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis* (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given) **
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella ***
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

* Usually given as DTP or DTaP or DT or Td if pertussis is not medically advisable.

** A 4th dose not necessary if the 3rd dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose

*** Usually given as MMR

In addition to the immunizations listed above, the following immunizations are going to be required as a **condition of entry for students entering the 7th grade; or, in an ungraded class, for students in the school year that the student is 12 years of age:**

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) on the first day of 7th grade
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) on the first day of 7th grade

Additionally, as a condition of entry for students entering the 12th grade:

- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) on the first day of 12th grade
If one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the twelfth grade dose.

“Attendance at school” is defined, in pertinent part, as attendance at a grade, or special classes, kindergarten through 12th grade, including public, private, parochial, vocational, intermediate unit and home education students and students of cyber and

charter schools. Attendance at a pre-kindergarten program operated by a school district, an early intervention program operated by a contractor or subcontractor including intermediate units, school districts and private vendors, or at private academic preschools is conditional upon the child's satisfaction of the immunization requirements specifically set forth in another section: § 27.77. If the CEO has any questions regarding the applicability of the revised regulations to students attending the Charter School at any grade or level, the CEO is directed to contact the Charter School's solicitor for clarification.

Day 1 of New School Year:

- A child is required to have any single dose vaccine upon school entry, or risk exclusion.
 - Tdap (1) 7th grade Day 1
- In the case of a multi-dose vaccine, regulations require that the child have at least one dose of the vaccine upon school entry or risk exclusion.
 - DTaP (4) kindergarten
 - Polio (4) kindergarten
 - HepB (3) kindergarten
 - MMR (2) kindergarten
 - Varicella (2) kindergarten
 - MCV (1) 7th - 11th grades, (2) 12th grade

Days 1-5 of New School Year:

If additional doses are required and are medically appropriate within the first five days of school: the child shall have either the final dose during that five-day period; or the child shall have the next scheduled dose and shall also provide a medical certificate setting out the schedule for the remaining doses.

Medical Plan/Certificate

If the child has at least one dose, but needs additional doses, and those doses are not medically appropriate during the first five days of school, the child may provide a medical certificate on or before the fifth school day showing the doses are scheduled to be administered.

The medical certificate shall be signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) or physician assistant (PA). If the child will be receiving the

immunizations from the department or a public health department, a public health official may sign the medical certificate.

A child who meets these requirements may continue to attend school even if the child does not have all the required vaccinations, so long as the child complies with the vaccination schedule in the medical plan/certificate. School administrators or their designees are required to review that medical plan/certificate every 30 days to ensure that the child is in compliance.

Exemptions:

The only permitted exemptions from the immunization requirements listed above are pursuant to the Pennsylvania Code:

- Medical reasons;
- Religious beliefs; or
- Philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction.

The Charter School must adhere to these requirements. For the medical reasons, children need not be immunized if a physician or the physician's designee provides a written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the child. 28 Pa. Code 23.84(a). When the physician determines that immunization is no longer detrimental to the health of the child, the child shall be immunized according to Chapter 23. Regarding the other two exemptions, children need not be immunized if the parent, guardian or emancipated child objects in writing to the immunization on religious grounds or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief. 28 Pa. Code 23.84(b).

Waiver

The following circumstances warrant waiver of the Immunization requirements:

- If the child is homeless;
- If the child is unable to locate his records due to a disaster;
- If a child transfers into the school in this Commonwealth and is unable to provide immunization records immediately upon enrollment into the school. The child's parent or guardian shall have 30 days to provide immunization records to the school, a medical certificate, or to satisfy the requirements for an exemption.

Otherwise, the child may be excluded at the end of the 30-day period and in subsequent school years until the requirements are met.

- If the child is in foster care, the child's foster parent shall have 30 days to provide immunization records, a medical certificate or to satisfy the requirements for an exemption. Otherwise, the child may be excluded at the end of the 30-day period and in subsequent school years until the requirements are met.

Temporary Waiver

- If there is a national vaccine shortage

Foreign exchange students or those visiting Pennsylvania schools:

Foreign exchange students or foreign students visiting Pennsylvania schools need at least one dose of each antigen and are then granted a provisional enrollment, same as any student enrolling in a Pennsylvania schools.

Homeless students:

Per the Waiver section above, the Charter School shall immediately enroll the student in school, even if the student lacks records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency or other documentation. (See the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Basic Education Circulars for "Education for Homeless Youth" or "Enrollment of Students.")

Responsibilities of Schools and Administrators:

The CEO or his/her designee is directed to appoint a knowledgeable person (i.e. school nurse, director of school health services) to perform the following:

- (1) Inform the parent, guardian or emancipated child at registration or prior to registration, if possible, of the requirements of Chapter 23.
- (2) Ascertain the immunization status of a child prior to admission to school or continued attendance at school.

The parent or guardian of a child or the emancipated child who has not received the immunizations required under § 23.83 shall be **informed** of the specific immunizations required and **advised** to go to the child's usual source of care or nearest public clinic to obtain the required immunizations.

The school shall maintain **on file** a certificate of immunization for a child enrolled. An alternative to maintaining a certificate on file is to transfer the immunization information from the certificate to a **computer database**. The certificate of immunization or a facsimile thereof generated by computer shall be returned to the parent, guardian or emancipated child or the school shall transfer the certificate of immunization (or facsimile) with the child's record to the new school when a child withdraws, transfers, is promoted, graduates or otherwise leaves the school.

The Charter School may remove a student from school during an outbreak if in Charter School health records, the student is exempt from immunizations.

School Reporting to the Department of Health:

Below are school reporting requirements with which the Charter School **must** comply:

- The Charter School shall report immunization data to the Department by December 31st of each year, using forms provided by the Department.

Department of Health Forms/Monitoring:

The Department of Health is to provide the certificates of immunization to schools. If the Charter School does not receive same, the CEO or his/her designee shall direct that the appropriate request be made to obtain the certificates and shall consult with the Charter School's solicitor as may be necessary.

The Department will monitor for compliance and will have access to school immunization records whether the records are maintained as certificates or whether the records are contained in a school's computer database. The CEO or his/her designee, in conjunction with the school nurse, must maintain immunization records in accordance with Department of Health regulations and facilitate appropriate monitoring and access procedures.

Vaccine Acronyms:

<u>Vaccine names</u>	<u>Abbreviations</u>
Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis	DTaP (<7 years)/Tdap)
Tetanus, diphtheria	DT, Td
Polio	IPV
Measles, mumps, rubella	MMR

Hepatitis B	HepB
Varicella	Var
Meningococcal Conjugate	MCV

Confidentiality

All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or to a physician at the written request of the parent/ guardian.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.

ADOPTED this 5th day of June, 2024

President

Secretary