

Students

Series 500

Policy Title: Exclusion for Communicable Diseases

Code No. 507.3

The Board of Directors believes any student of the Marshalltown Community School District with a communicable disease should be allowed to attend their regularly assigned classes as long as they are physically able to perform the tasks assigned to them and as long as their attendance does not create a substantial risk of transmission of the illness to other students or employees in the District. The term “communicable disease” will mean an infectious or contagious disease spread from person to person, or animal to person, or as defined by law. The District will make every effort, in light of the circumstances surrounding the student's individual circumstances, to provide the least restrictive environment for the student's continued attendance at school.

Prevention and control of communicable diseases is included in the school district's bloodborne pathogens exposure control plan. The procedures will include scope and application, definitions, exposure control, methods of compliance, universal precautions, vaccination, post-exposure evaluation, follow-up, communication of hazards to employees and record keeping. This plan is reviewed annually by the superintendent and school nurse.

The health risk to an immunosuppressed student attending school shall be determined by the student's personal physician. The health risk to others in the school environment from the presence of a student with a communicable disease shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by public health officials.

The Board recognizes there may be greater risks for the transmission of a communicable

disease for some persons with certain conditions than for other persons infected with the same disease. These special conditions shall be considered in assessing the risk of transmission of the disease, the effect upon the educational program, and the effect upon the student's continued attendance in the least restrictive environment at school.

It shall be the responsibility for the Superintendent of Schools through the School Nurses to notify the proper authorities, such as the Iowa State Department of Health, in accordance with Iowa law when it is found that a communicable disease exists in the school setting. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or designee to develop procedures for excluding students with a communicable disease from attending school. Students may be excluded based on recommendations from public health agencies and the U.S. Public Health Center for Disease Control. If the student is to be excluded from school, it is the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee to make arrangements, in conjunction with the parent or guardian, for the student's educational program.

The Board realizes the importance to others of knowing which students in the District have a communicable disease. However, this must be weighed against the privacy and confidentiality rights of the student. Public concern regarding communicable diseases is neither an excuse nor a defense for the violation of the privacy rights of students who have or are rumored to have a communicable disease. Health data is regarded as private data, and it is not to be disseminated to the public, to the students, or the employees in the District without strict observance of data privacy rights.

The Board believes that a well-informed public of citizens, employees, and students utilizing good hygiene practices will minimize the risk of transmission of the disease while protecting the rights of any infected students. It will be the responsibility of the Superintendent

of Schools in conjunction with the Director of Health Services to keep the public, staff, and students informed about all communicable diseases and related issues.

Adopted: Fall, 1969

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)

Reviewed: February 3, 2014
March 5, 2018

School Board of Nassau County v. Arline, 480 U.S. 273 (1987).
29 U.S.C. §§ 701 et seq. (2012). 45 C.F.R. Pt. 84.3 (2012).
Iowa Code ch. 139A.8 (2013). 641 I.A.C. 1.2-.5, 7.

Amended: January 25, 1988
February 8, 1993
March 2, 2009

Cross Reference: 403.3 Communicable Diseases-Employees
506 Student Records Access