

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS POLICY

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to comply with the laws of the State of South Dakota that require students to receive specific immunizations prior to their admission to school. The Rapid City Area Schools shall comply with the law through the implementation of the following requirements and procedures.

II. General Statement of Policy

A. The policy of the Rapid City Area Schools is to require appropriate school authorities receive for each student a certification from a licensed health official stating that the student has received, or is in the process of receiving, adequate immunizations against those diseases specified in the law. As an alternative to the requirement for a certification, the law allows the student to present the following:

1. Certification from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child would be such that a test or immunization would endanger the child's life or health.
2. Religious exemption signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such test and immunization.
3. Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Individuals serving in the United States Armed Forces may exercise their right to complete an Application for Transfer of Student Records and Enrollment with the military educational facility or school district in which they attended prior to the Rapid City Area Schools. The completion of the Application for Transfer of Student Records and Enrollment of students that are subject to this compact allows for the following:
 - a. Immunizations – Compacting states (South Dakota) shall give thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment for the parents/guardians to produce the required immunization records, complete the immunizations required, or have a medical treatment plan in place to have the immunizations completed or the student will be excluded from school following the 30 calendar days. For a series of immunizations or for initial immunizations, these must be obtained within (30) calendar days or a

medical treatment plan must be in place for the students to receive the immunizations.

4. McKinney-Vento Law (i) The school selected in accordance with this paragraph shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation.
 - a. The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic and other records.
 - b. If the child or youth needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth to the local educational agency liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records, in accordance with subparagraph (D) under (3) Local Educational Agency requirements. Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or other required health records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:
 - i. So that the records involved are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district; and
 - ii. In a manner consistent with section 1232g of title 20.
- B. To comply with the South Dakota law, the following procedures have been developed.
1. All kindergarten students and students from outside the United States who enroll will have all age appropriate immunizations completed before the first day of attendance.
 2. Students in grades 1-12 entering the Rapid City Area Schools **PRIOR** to the last Friday of September will be allowed two (2) weeks from the last Friday in September to present verification of their completed immunizations or provide evidence that a medical treatment plan is in place. If the proper certification is not presented by that date indicating that the immunizations have been completed, or that there is a documented medical treatment plan in place, the student will be excluded from attendance until such requirements can be met or a re-entry plan can be made with the school nurse and principal. Letters from the building principal notifying parents/guardians of immunization non-compliance and exclusion will be placed in the United

States Postal Service mail two weeks prior to the last Friday of September notifying parents/guardians of their child immunization non-compliance and about the potential of school exclusion that could occur should this requirement not be met.

3. Students in grades 1-12 entering the Rapid City Area Schools **AFTER** the last Friday of September will be allowed two (2) weeks from enrollment to present verification of their completed immunizations. If the proper certification is not presented by that date indicating that the immunizations have been completed, or evidence that a medical treatment plan is in place with the school, the student will be excluded from attendance until such requirements can be met or a re-entry plan can be made.

III. Reporting Procedures

- A. The school secretary will review immunization records. The immunization records and plans will be monitored by the school nurse.
- B. In those cases where parents fail to provide any of the appropriate documentation of immunization or an exemption statement, causing the child to be excluded from school, child neglect proceedings may be initiated by the building principal.

IV. Dissemination of Policy and Training

- A. This policy shall appear in all Rapid City Area Schools Student Handbooks.
- B. The Rapid City Area Schools shall discuss and provide training on this policy with school personnel.

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Legal Reference:

SDCL 13-28-7.1, 13-28-7.2

Cross Reference:

<http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter119/subchapter6/partB&edition=prelim>