

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

The Board of Directors believes any student of the district with a communicable disease should be allowed to attend to 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 Board 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.

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 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. The Department shall be requested to convene an Advisory Committee to review the case and to provide recommendations regarding the permissibility of continued attendance of the student in the regular classroom. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools to develop procedures for excluding students with a communicable disease from attending school. These procedures shall be 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 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 to the employees in the district without strict observance of data privacy rights. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools to develop procedures that will respect the student's privacy rights. Knowledge that a student has a communicable disease will be limited to the Board, the Superintendent of Schools, the school nurse and to whomever else the Advisory Committee recommends.

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 school nurse, to keep the public, staff and students informed about all communicable diseases and related issues.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Iowa, Chapter 139 (1985)  
Iowa Code Sup. Sec. 139.9 and 139.33 (1985)  
470 Iowa Admin. Code, Chapter 7 and Specs. 1.2-1.5 and 146.1(2)  
670 Iowa Admin. Code, Specs. 22.15-22.17

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