

New York State Education Law
Changes to Health Examination Requirements
And Optional Dental Certificate Notice
Effective September 2008

As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that districts now calculate students' body mass index (BMI) using this information. The BMI may help health care professionals determine if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Please remember that this is only one measurement and is not used in isolation to make healthcare decisions. This information will remain confidential in each student's health record. This assessment will occur in grade Pre-K or Kindergarten, and in grades 2, 4, 7 and 10.

Each year the State Education Department (SED) will select a number of districts to participate in a survey designed by the New York State Department of Health. If our school is selected to participate, we will be reporting specific information to the Department of Health. Districts will be responsible for sharing weight status information. No names and no information about individual students will be sent or shared. As the parent/guardian, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report. The information being sent to the NYS Department of Health will help to develop programs and services that make it easier for children to be healthier.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this survey or the data collection process, please contact Mary Leto, Coordinator of Instruction and Learning, at 589-2055. In addition, if you do not wish to have your child's weight, height and BMI information shared with the NYS Health Department, please contact the building level nurses:

Elementary School at 589-2033
Middle School at 589-2023
High School at 589-2043

Optional Dental Certificate Notice

A law passed in 2007 requires New York State public schools to request, or ask, for a dental health certificate of students, at the time of school entry and in grades K, 2, 4, 7, and 10, declaring their dental health condition. Beginning in school year 2008-2009, schools must notify parents or guardians to request a dental health certificate and must provide a list of dentists upon request to which students who need dental examinations may be referred on a free or reduced cost basis.

What specifically does this new law require?

Education Law §903 requires students to furnish a health certificate upon entry into a school, or upon entry into grades K, 2, 4, 7 and 10. Chapter 281 of the Laws of 2007 amended §903 to require school districts to request dental health certificates upon a student's entrance into

school, or upon entry into grades K, 2, 4, 7, and 10. Failure to provide such a certificate does not preclude a student's attendance at school.

- Each dental health certificate must be signed by a duly licensed dentist and shall describe the dental health condition of the student when the exam was conducted. This examination must be made no more than twelve months prior to the beginning of the school year in which such examination is requested.
- Within 30 days after the student's entrance in such school or grades, the dental health certificate, if obtained, shall be filed in the student's cumulative health record.
- An examination and dental health history of any student may be requested by the local school authorities at any time in their discretion to promote the educational interests of such student.
- A notice of request for dental health certificates shall be distributed at the same time that parents or persons in parental relationship to students are notified of health examination requirements.
- The notice shall include a statement that a list of dentists to which students who need comprehensive dental examinations may be referred for treatment on a free or reduced cost basis is available upon request at the student's schools. Such list shall be made available to all public schools, and made available to parents or guardians upon request.

What is the role of schools?

- Distribute a sample Dental Health Certificate form to students. You can download the form from Education Department website at:
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/sss/HealthServices>
- Provide a list of dentists upon request
- Keep checking the Department of Health's website for more updated information.

What if a student is not in fit condition to attend school?

- This does not preclude a student from attending school.

What should the school do with the dental health certificate form?

File it in the cumulative health record.