

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Statutory Authority: 14 Delaware Code, Section 3003A (14 Del.C. §3003A)  
14 DE Admin. Code 815

### PROPOSED

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Education Impact Analysis Pursuant to 14 Del.C. Section 122(d)

#### 815 Health Examinations and Screening

##### A. TYPE OF REGULATORY ACTION REQUIRED

Amendment to Existing Regulation

##### B. SYNOPSIS OF SUBJECT MATTER OF THE REGULATION

Pursuant to 14 Del.C. § 3003A, the Secretary of Education intends to amend 14 DE Admin. Code 815 Health Examinations and Screening. This regulation is being amended to change the vision and hearing screening dates, and postural and gait screening dates for the 2021-2022 school year only. The regulation is also being edited to comply with the *Delaware Administrative Code Drafting and Style Manual*. The proposed amendments to this regulation as published in the October 2021 issue of the *Register of Regulations* (25 DE Reg. 363 (10/01/21)) are no longer being considered.

Persons wishing to present their views regarding this matter may do so in writing by the close of business on or before January 3, 2022 to Department of Education, Office of the Secretary, Attn: Regulation Review, 401 Federal Street, Suite 2, Dover, Delaware 19901 or email to [DOEregulations.comment@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:DOEregulations.comment@doe.k12.de.us). A copy of this regulation may be viewed online at the Registrar of Regulation's website, [http://regulations.delaware.gov/services/current\\_issue.shtml](http://regulations.delaware.gov/services/current_issue.shtml), or obtained at the Department of Education, located at the address listed above.

##### C. IMPACT CRITERIA

1. Will the amended regulation help improve student achievement as measured against state achievement standards? The amended regulation does not specifically address the improvement of student achievement as measured against state achievement standards.

2. Will the amended regulation help ensure that all students receive an equitable education? The amended regulation will help ensure all students receive an equitable education by providing healthcare baselines.

3. Will the amended regulation help to ensure that all students' health and safety are adequately protected? The amended regulation will help ensure all students' health and safety are adequately protected.

4. Will the amended regulation help to ensure that all students' legal rights are respected? The amended regulation continues to help ensure that all students' legal rights are respected.

5. Will the amended regulation preserve the necessary authority and flexibility of decision making at the local board and school level? The amended regulation does not change the decision making at the local board and school level.

6. Will the amended regulation place unnecessary reporting or administrative requirements or mandates upon decision makers at the local board and school levels? The amended regulation does not place any unnecessary reporting or administrative requirements or man-dates on decision makers.

7. Will the decision making authority and accountability for addressing the subject to be regulated be placed in the same entity? The amended regulation does not change the decision making authority and accountability for addressing the subject to be regulated.

8. Will the amended regulation be consistent with and not an impediment to the implementation of other state educational policies, in particular to state educational policies addressing achievement in the core academic subjects of mathematics, science, language arts and social studies? As discussed above, the amended regulation does not address achievement in the core academic subjects. The amended regulation is consistent with and not an impediment to the implementation of other state educational policies.

9. Is there a less burdensome method for addressing the purpose of the regulation? There is no less burdensome method for addressing the health care screenings required by the amended regulation.

10. What is the cost to the State and to the local school boards of compliance with the regulation? There are no material costs to implementing this amended regulation.

#### 815 Health Examinations and Screening

##### 1.0 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this regulation, have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

**"Delaware School Health Examination Form"** means the age-appropriate form developed by the Delaware Department of Education or a substantially similar form for documenting information from the parent, guardian or ~~Relative Caregiver~~ relative caregiver, and healthcare provider on the student's health status.

**"Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form"** means the form approved by the DIAA.

**"Health Examination"** means the medical examination done by a Healthcare Provider to determine health status and conditions.

**"Healthcare Provider"** means a currently licensed physician, advanced practice ~~nurse~~ nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant.

**"Lead Screening"** means a capillary blood lead test, including where a drop of blood is taken from a finger or heel of the foot (16 **Del.C.** Ch. 26).

**"School Enterer"** means any child between birth and twenty (20) years inclusive enrolling and attending a Delaware public school district or public school for the first time, including but not limited to, foreign exchange students, immigrants, students from other states or territories, and children entering from non-public schools.

**"Screenings"** means the vision, hearing, and postural gait screening performed by the school nurse or other qualified healthcare professional.

**15 DE Reg. 838 (12/01/11)**

**25 DE Reg. 410 (10/01/21)**

## **2.0 Health Examinations**

2.1 All public school students shall have two (2) health examinations, as provided in this section, that have been administered by a healthcare provider.

2.1.1 The first health examination shall have been done within the two (2) years prior to enrollment into a Delaware public school.

2.1.1.1 Within thirty (30) calendar days after enrollment, any public school student who has not complied with the health examination requirement shall have received the health examination or shall have a documented appointment with a healthcare provider for the health examination. If this documentation is not provided within this thirty (30) calendar days, the student shall be excluded from school until this documentation is received.

2.1.2 The second required health examination shall be done within the two (2) years prior to entry into grade 9.

2.1.2.1 Within thirty (30) calendar days after entry, any grade 9 student who has not complied with the second health examination requirement shall have received the health examination or shall have a documented appointment with a healthcare provider for the health examination. If this documentation is not provided within these thirty (30) calendar days, the student shall be excluded from school until this documentation is received.

2.1.3 Notwithstanding subsections 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.2.1, all students must meet the requirements under 14 **DE Admin. Code** 804 Immunizations.

2.1.4 The requirement for the health examination may be waived for students whose parent, guardian or relative caregiver as defined in 14 **Del.C.** §202(f), or the student if 18 years or older, or an unaccompanied homeless youth (as defined by ~~42 USC 11434a~~) 42 USC §11434a) presents a written declaration acknowledged before a notary public, that because of individual religious beliefs, they reject the concept of health examinations.

2.1.5 Notwithstanding the above, a second health examination shall not be required if the first health examination is within two (2) years of entering Grade 9.

2.1.6 The Delaware School Health Examination Form or the DIAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation ~~form~~ Form may be used as documentation of the health examination. In addition, a district or charter school may accept a health examination or evaluation documentation on a form which includes, at a minimum, health history, immunizations, results of medical tests and screenings, medical diagnoses, prescribed medications and treatments, and healthcare plans.

2.1.7 The school nurse shall record all findings within the student's electronic health record (see 14 **DE Admin. Code** 811) and maintain the original copy in the child's medical file.

**10 DE Reg. 1807 (06/01/07)**

**15 DE Reg. 838 (12/01/11)**

**16 DE Reg. 283 (09/01/12)**

## 25 DE Reg. 410 (10/01/21)

**Non regulatory note:** See 14 **DE Admin. Code** 1008.3 and 14 **DE Admin. Code** 1009.3 for physical or health examination requirements associated with participation in sports.

### 3.0 Screening

#### 3.1 Vision and Hearing Screening

3.1.1 Each public school student in kindergarten and in grades 2, 4, 7 and grades 9 or 10 shall receive a vision and a hearing screening by January 15th of each school year. For the 2021-2022 school year only, the required screenings shall be completed by April 15, 2022 and not required to be completed by January 15, 2022.

3.1.1.1 In addition to the screening requirements in subsection 3.1.1, screening shall also be provided to school enterers, students referred by a teacher or an administrator, and students considered for special education.

3.1.1.1.1 Driver education students shall have a vision screening within a one (1) year prior to ~~of~~ their in-car driving hours.

3.1.2 The school nurse shall record the results within the student's electronic health record (see 14 **DE Admin. Code** 811) and shall notify the parent, guardian or relative caregiver as defined in 14 **Del.C.** §202(f), or the student if 18 years or older, or an unaccompanied homeless youth (as defined by ~~42 USC 11434a~~) 42 USC §11434a) if the student has a suspected problem.

#### 3.2 Postural and Gait Screening

3.2.1 Each public school student in grades 5 through 9 shall receive a postural and gait screening by December ~~15th.~~ 15<sup>th</sup> of each school year. For the 2021-2022 school year only, the required screening shall be completed by February 15, 2022 and not required to be completed by December 15, 2021.

3.2.2 The school nurse shall record the findings within the student's electronic health record (see 14 **DE Admin. Code** 811) and shall notify the parents, guardian or relative caregiver as defined in 14 **Del.C.** §202(f), or the student if 18 years or older, or an unaccompanied homeless youth (as defined by ~~42 USC 11434a~~) 42 USC §11434a) if a suspected deviation has been detected.

3.2.2.1 If a suspected deviation is detected, the school nurse shall refer the student for further evaluation through an ~~onsite~~ on-site follow up evaluation or a referral to the student's healthcare provider.

#### 3.3 Lead Screening

3.3.1 School enterers at kindergarten or at age 5 or prior, shall be required to provide documentation of ~~the results of~~ lead screening as per 16 **Del.C.** Ch. 26.

3.3.1.1 For school enterers in kindergarten, documentation of lead screening shall be provided within sixty (60) calendar days of the date of enrollment. Failure to provide the required documentation shall result in the child's exclusion from school until the documentation is provided.

3.3.1.2 Exemption from this requirement may be granted for religious exemptions, per 16 **Del.C.** §2603.

3.3.1.3 The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act, 16 **Del.C.** Ch. 26, requires all healthcare providers to order lead screening for children at or around the age of 12 months ~~of age~~.

3.3.1.4 For school year 2021-2022, children entering first grade, who did not provide documentation of the results of lead screening when enrolling in kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year, shall provide such documentation within sixty (60) calendar days of the date of the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Failure to provide the required documentation shall result in the child's exclusion from school until documentation is provided.

3.3.2 The school nurse shall document the lead screening within the student's electronic ~~medical~~ health record. See 14 **DE Admin. Code** 811.

**10 DE Reg. 1807 (06/01/07)**

**15 DE Reg. 838 (12/01/11)**

**16 DE Reg. 283 (09/01/12)**

**25 DE Reg. 410 (10/01/21)**

### 4.0 Health Records

If the student is at risk of exclusion because of not meeting the health examinations or immunization documentation requirements, the school nurse may contact the previous Delaware public school nurse to obtain health examinations and immunization records.

**25 DE Reg. 410 (10/01/21)**

## 5.0 Special Considerations

- 5.1 School districts and charter schools shall ensure that policies concerning immunization, guardianship and birth certificates do not create barriers to the school enrollment and participation of identified special populations.
- 5.1.1 Homeless Children and Youth - The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, ~~42 U.S.C. 11301~~ 42 USC §11301 et seq., requires immediate enrollment and entry to school, even if students are unable to produce immunization or other medical records. The Delaware public school nurse and the LEA Homeless Education Liaison at the enrolling school shall work together to obtain the necessary immunization records as soon as possible. If a student has not had immunizations, the school nurse and LEA Homeless Education Liaison shall assist homeless children and youth in meeting the immunization requirements.
- 5.1.2 Youth in Foster Care – The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of ~~1965~~ 1965, Section 1111(g)(1)(E) requires that when a determination is made that it is not in ~~a youth in foster care's~~ the best interest of a youth in foster care to remain in the school of origin, the child is immediately enrolled in a new school, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by any such child to obtain relevant academic and other records. The school nurse and LEA foster care liaison at the enrolling school shall work together to obtain the necessary immunization records as soon as possible.
- 5.1.3 Military-Connected Youth - In accordance with the provisions of 14 **Del.C.** Ch. 1, Subchapter III-A Interstate Compact on Education For Children of Military Families (MIC3) and its enabling regulation, a school enterer or secondary school student who is subject to MIC3 shall be allowed thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission, to obtain or to initiate a series of immunizations required by this regulation. The Delaware public school nurse of the enrolling school shall work with the parent or guardian of the school enterer to obtain the necessary immunization records as soon as possible.

**7 DE Reg. 68 (07/01/03)**

**10 DE Reg. 1807 (06/01/07)**

**15 DE Reg. 838 (12/01/11)**

**16 DE Reg. 283 (09/01/12)**

**23 DE Reg. 208 (09/01/19)**

**25 DE Reg. 410 (10/01/21)**

**25 DE Reg. 568 (12/01/21) (Prop.)**