

## STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Bloomington Public Schools, District 87 does not carry medical, dental or other insurance for students injured in accidents on school premises. Parents are responsible for the costs of such accidents and any student insurance coverage. Because so many students have accidents at school, it is highly recommended that parents purchase their own insurance coverage. As a convenience for parents, District 87 annually designates an optional student accident insurance plan that parents can purchase. Information and forms for this coverage are available at the time of school registration. While District 87 takes care to select a reliable insurance company, the District does not endorse the plan or recommend it instead of other insurance plans. The contract is solely between parents and the company and District 87 has no financial or legal responsibility for the plan or contract.

## HEALTH SERVICES

**Immunization and Physical Examination Requirements:** All Illinois students are required to show proof of having met the physical examination and immunization requirements prescribed by the state and illustrated in the Table on page 32. Documentation the child has had the required health examination and immunizations should be provided to the school at the time of registration. Children at all grade levels can register without this documentation, but will not be allowed to attend school until they have proof on file with the school nurse. Children will be allowed to attend school without proof of the Vision Exam requirement until October 15 and the Dental Exam requirement until May 15 of the current school year. Students transferring from another school district should transfer their health records. If these records are not received within thirty (30) days of the request for such records, parents will be allowed an additional ten (10) days to show proof of meeting the health examination and immunization requirements. After that, the student will be excluded from school until proof of meeting the requirements is given to school authorities. Health examination forms can be obtained from the school nurse or local physician. Students and parents with questions on the health examination and immunization requirements should contact the school nurse. Parents who object to the health examination and immunization requirements on religious grounds shall provide school authorities a signed statement of such objection on a form available from the school nurse. This form is required to be renewed in grades Pre-K, K, 6 and 9.

## HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

The dates of required immunizations must be verified by your health care provider (physician, health department, clinic, etc.). Please note that some of the immunizations are completed in a series of shots that may require several months to complete. For instance, the three Hepatitis B shots may require up to twelve (12) months to complete. It is important not to wait until the last minute to schedule an appointment with your health care provider. **VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS** Free vision and hearing screenings are conducted at state-mandated grade levels. Hearing screenings are not required if parents request their child be excluded in writing. Vision screenings are not required if an eye examination signed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within the last 12 months is on file with the school. Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Parents will be notified if the screenings indicate a student should receive a more extensive examination by a physician. **School Nurse:** School nurses are available, or are on call, at all District schools. Their primary responsibility is to promote student health and safety and to maintain student health records. If a student becomes ill or injured at school when the nurse is not present, the Principal or their administrative designee will provide care. **Celebrations:** Invitations to parties cannot be distributed at school. Due to health concerns and scheduling, treats for any occasion must be arranged with the teacher in advance. No homemade snacks or treats are allowed at school. Store-bought snacks and treats must be in their original package with the nutritional/ingredient list. Non-food items are preferred, including book marks, pencils, erasers, etc. Special deliveries for students, such as flowers and balloons, should not be made to school. Deliveries that arrive at school will be held in the office for pick-up by parents. **Emergency Care Plans:** Parents/guardians of students with life threatening conditions, such as

asthma, seizures, or severe allergies, are encouraged to establish and file emergency action plans with the school. Parents should always communicate serious medical conditions to the school nurse before the first day of school and when the condition develops. ADMINISTERING STUDENT MEDICINE AT SCHOOL: It is the policy of District 87 that as a regular and normal practice, medicine should not be administered to a student at school or when the student is involved in school activities. However, under certain circumstances, medicine may be administered during school hours by the school nurse or other designated school personnel. These rules apply to both prescription and any over-the-counter medication, including Tylenol, Ibuprofen, cough drops and chapstick. Ask the school nurse if you have any question. A medication authorization form must be completed by the parent and licensed physician and filed with the nurse along with the medication in its original container with the correct label. This form is available in the nurse's office, in most local doctors' offices, and on-line at [www.district87.org](http://www.district87.org) , under "For Parents and Students" then "Health Forms." Additional information about the Board of Education Policy #7.270, Administering Student Medicine, can be obtained from the school nurse or on line at [www.district87.org](http://www.district87.org)

Students cannot self-administer medications at school except in the two very limited circumstances addressed below

#### SELF-ADMINISTER EPI-PEN AND ASTHMA MEDICATION

Students with asthma and the potential for allergic anaphylactic reactions are allowed to carry and self-administer prescribed medications pursuant to the following:

- Asthma and epi-pen medications must be prescribed by a healthcare provider, healthcare provider assistant, or nurse practitioner that has prescribing privileges.
- Self-administration means a students' discretionary use of his or her prescribed medications.
- The parent/guardian has provided written permission for the student to self-administer asthma medication along with the original asthma prescription which must include the following information:
  - name and purpose of medication;
  - the prescribed dosage; and
  - the time or times at which, or the special circumstances under which, the medication is to be administered.
- The healthcare provider has provided a written Medical Authorization form for the student to self-administer the epi-pen medication along with the original epi-pen prescription which must include the following information:
  - name and purpose of medication;
  - the prescribed dosage; and
  - the time or times at which, or the special circumstances under which, the medication is to be administered.
- The above information shall be kept on file with the school nurse and/or administrator.
- The school is not held liable for students who self-administer asthma or epi-pen medications unless school personnel prevent the student from obtaining and self-administering medication.
- The written permission from parents and healthcare providers are effective for the school year and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.
- These provisions pertain to students while they are in school, at a school-sponsored activity, while under the supervision of school personnel, and before-school or after-school care on school-operated property. If you have any further questions about the Asthma Medication Law, please contact the American Lung Association at 1-800-LUNG-USA.

#### HEAD LICE

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice:

- Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
- A student who has live head lice will be sent home after the parent or guardian has been notified.

- A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return only when checked by the school nurse or building principal and determined to be free from an active infestation.
- District 87 has a no live lice policy. If a student is found to have head lice, the student will be excluded from school until the student is treated and found to be free of live lice.
- Should a student have a chronic problem and be sent home 3 times in a 30-day period the principal may require the student to be free from all nits before returning to school.

## ILLNESSES

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to keep children home when they are sick. Children with the following conditions should not be in school: • A fever within the last 24 hours of 100° F or higher. The child must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen before returning to school. • Vomiting within the last 24 hours • Diarrhea within the last 24 hours • A frequent and disruptive cough • Any contagious illness such as “strep throat” that requires antibiotics. Once a student has been fever free without the use of fever reducing medications and on antibiotics for at least 24 hours, he/she may return to school. • Any undiagnosed skin rash. A student with a rash may attend school upon presenting a physician’s note stating the rash is not contagious. • Excessive tiredness or fatigue that interferes with participation in learning activities. If the school nurse in conjunction with the principal decides the student is not in condition to stay at school, the parent will be contacted and will be expected to make immediate arrangements to have the child picked up at school. Children must remain out of school for 24 hours after fever, diarrhea or vomiting.

## HOMEBOUND STUDENTS

The parent and the student’s physician must fill out an application for home/hospital services. This form may be obtained from the nurse’s office or the guidance office. If the physician verifies that the student must be out of school for ten school days or more, a homebound teacher may be provided, if recommended by a staffing consultation and approved by the district office. The student’s parent or guardian should contact the counselor immediately at the onset of the illness for additional information. The Attendance office must be called each day until a homebound teacher has been approved.

## Comfort Dogs

The benefits of therapy dogs as a supportive intervention providing comfort or emotional support to students, teachers and others are well established. However, the presence of dogs in schools can also cause health, safety and sanitation issues. Some students may be allergic and dogs can spread disease and infections or behave in dangerous and unpredictable ways causing injury or trauma. Therefore, to ensure a safe environment, therapy dogs are allowed in all District schools at the sole discretion of the Principal and Superintendent under the following guidelines: The dog is appropriately credentialed, in good health and well behaved, including: ▪ trained, certified and insured as a therapy dog; ▪ licensed and registered as an animal pursuant to City rules; ▪ current on all required shots and veterinary check-ups; ▪ housebroken, free of parasites, clean and well groomed; and ▪ socializes well, not aggressive and does not disrupt the educational environment. The trainer is responsible for: ▪ keeping the dog on a leash and under control at all times; ▪ keeping the dog out of areas where food is prepared and eaten; ▪ accomplishing their own work as well as their trainer responsibilities so that other staff are not responsible for care or supervision of the dog; and ▪ the welfare of the dog including, how and where it will toilet, how long and often it will be used /rested, and what occurs in an emergency or drill. Student issues related to the use of the therapy dog such as allergies and fear are considered and accommodated and parents are notified of the presence of the therapy dog and given an opportunity to opt their child out of contact with it.