

Students

Chronic/Infectious Diseases

The Putnam Board of Education adopts the following policy for educating students known to have a chronic infectious disease (e.g., AIDS/ARC, HIV, Hepatitis B or C, Herpes Simplex, Venereal Diseases) and for ensuring a safe and healthy school environment for all students.

1. All students in Connecticut have a constitutional right to a free, suitable program of educational experiences.
2. As a general rule, a child with a chronic infectious disease will be allowed, with the approval of the child's physician, to attend school in a regular classroom setting and will be considered eligible for all rights, privileges, and services provided by law in existing policy of the Putnam School District.
3. The school nurse will function as, the liaison with the child's physician, the child's advocate in the school (i.e., assist in problem resolution, answer questions).
4. The coordination of services will be done through a Planning and Placement Team or 504 Team, if necessary, the school nurse and the school guidance counselor.
5. The school will respect the right to privacy of the individual. Only when there is a serious risk of transmission as determined by the school medical advisor and the individual's physician with the knowledge that a child has a chronic infectious disease be shared with, and confined to, those persons with a direct need to know (e.g., principal, school nurse, child's teacher). Those persons will be provided with appropriate information concerning such precautions as may be necessary and should be aware of confidentiality requirements.
6. Based upon individual circumstances special programming will be warranted. Special Services will be provided if determined to be necessary by the Planning and Placement Team or 504 Team.
7. Under certain circumstances a child with a chronic infectious disease might pose a risk of transmission to others, or they may be infected by other students. If any such circumstances exist, the school medical advisor, in consultation with the school nurse and the child's physician, must determine whether a risk of transmission exists. If it is determined that a risk exists, the student shall be removed from the classroom.
8. A child with a chronic infectious disease may be temporarily removed from the classroom for the reason stated in number 7 until an appropriate school program adjustment can be made, an appropriate alternative education program can be established, or a medical advisor determines that the risk has abated and the child can return to the classroom.
 - a. Removal from the classroom will not be construed as the only response to reduced risk of transmission. School personnel should be flexible in developing alternatives and should attempt to use the least restrictive means to accommodate the child's needs.
 - b. In any case of temporary removal of the student from the school setting, state regulations and school policy regarding homebound instruction will apply.

Students

Chronic/Infectious Diseases (continued)

9. Each removal of a child with a chronic infectious disease from normal school attendance will be reviewed by the school medical advisor. Consultation with the student's physician will occur at least once every month to determine whether the condition precipitating the removal has changed.
10. An afflicted child who has been denied entry into the regular classroom or who has been excluded from the classroom on the recommendations from the school's medical advisor has the right to appeal the decision, through the Superintendent, to the full Board of Education within fifteen (15) days of the exclusion.
11. A child with a chronic infectious disease may need to be removed from the classroom for his/her own protection when other communicable diseases (e.g., measles or chickenpox) are occurring in the school population. This decision will be made by the school medical advisor in consultation with the child's physician and parent/guardian.
12. Universal precautions will be practiced at all times when handling blood or body fluids.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

 "Education for Children with Disabilities", 20 U.S.C. 1400, et seq. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 706(7)(b)

 "Americans with Disabilities Act"

 The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 45 C.F.R. 99.

 10-76(d)(15) Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services.

 10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student.

 10-207 Duties of medical advisors.

 10-209 Records not to be public.

 10-210 Notice of disease to be given parent or guardian.

 19a-221 Quarantine of certain persons.

 19a-581-585 AIDS testing and medical information.

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PUTNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Putnam, Connecticut