




STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: June 26, 2020

SUBJECT: Health Assessments for 2020-2021 School Year

Local and regional boards of education must require each pupil enrolled in the public schools to have a health assessment (routine physical) prior to public school enrollment, as well as in either grade six or grade seven, and again in either grade nine or grade ten, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-206. The health assessment requirement is an important element in ensuring a healthy and safe school learning environment.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) understands that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, "well" child appointments with qualified health care practitioners have been subject to cancellation and may be limited in availability prior to and during the 2020-2021 school year. Due to the unavailability of appointments, there may be barriers for a child to obtain a required health assessment even if the child's parents or guardians make every attempt to schedule the health assessment.

Boards are permitted to deny attendance to a child who fails to obtain the required health assessments. However, during the 2020-2021 school year given the unavailability of appointments due to the pandemic, boards are encouraged to prioritize keeping students in school where possible. Being present in the classroom is especially important this year due to the cancellation of classes this spring. When appropriate, boards should work with parents and guardians to have an appointment scheduled as soon as possible rather than deny attendance. Boards should also review their internal policies and consult with board counsel regarding the flexibility allowed for in the statute, since it provides a range of grades during which assessments are required.

On June 19, the CSDE provided superintendents with immunization guidance issued by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) for the 2020-2021 school year. That memorandum, which includes information on the State Immunization Program and the availability of influenza vaccines for children, can also be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Digest/Superintendents-Digest>.

If you have questions regarding any of the above information please feel free to contact Stephanie Knutson, School Nurse Consultant at stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.