

## **CURRENT WPS POLICY**

### **NEW Material**

**FILE: JLCA**

### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH SCREENING OF STUDENTS**

Every student will be examined and/or screened for physical and public health issues ~~once in each school year for screening~~ in sight, hearing, BMI, and for other physical problems as provided in the laws. ~~A record of the results will be kept by the school nurse.~~ A record of height, BMI, Postural, Vision and Hearing screenings will be kept by the school nurse. Anonymous aggregated data for BMI and postural screenings will be shared to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MADPH) annually, as required by law. Anonymous data for Substance Use Brief Treatment (SBIRT) screenings will be shared to the DPH as required by law and not kept by any school staff.

Screenings will be conducted between the months of October to February of each school year. Parents will be notified in advance of screenings via a variety of outreach methods from the individual school, such as school newsletters, letters to parents, and school websites.

Screenings will be conducted at various grade levels, as follows:

Type	Grade Levels
Postural	5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Height and Body Mass Index (BMI)	1, 4, 7, 10
Vision	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10
Hearing	1, 2, 3, 7, 10
Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral for Treatment (SBRT)	7, 10
Signs of Suicide (SOS)	7, 9, 12

~~In order to maintain teacher relationships with students and maximize instructional time,~~ Postural screenings will be completed by nurses.

If a parent elects to provide current outside medical documentation of a required screening, the student will be exempt from school-based screening by school staff. Parents may opt their student out of screening at any time by providing written notice to the school nurse.

In addition to the screenings referenced above, every student is required to provide the school with documentation of a current physical upon admission, and at grades 3, 6, and 9. Physicals must be

submitted by February 1, of the identified school year and be less than one year old. ~~will be given a general physical examination, by their health care provider, This physical documentation is required four times; upon entering school and upon admittance to the third, sixth, and ninth grades.~~ The results of examinations will be a basis for determining what corrective measures or modifications of school activities, if any, should be recommended. A record of all examinations and recommendations will be kept by the school nurse.

If a student is unable to be seen by his/her own health care provider, in a timely fashion, the school physician, ~~with signed consent of the parent/guardian, can be available to perform the physical exam. will make an examination of a child referred to him /her by the school nurse.~~ Except in an emergency, The school physician will not prescribe for or treat any student.

Every candidate for a school athletic team will present a written report, signed by the student's health care provider, stating that the student was thoroughly examined and is determined to be fit to participate. In the event that the student is unable to be examined by their health care provider, the school physician, with signed consent of the parent/guardian, can be available to perform the physical exam. A written report stating the fitness of the student to participate, signed by the student's health care provider, will be sent to the school nurse.

Whenever the school nurse finds a child suffering from any disease or medical problem, the situation will be reported to the parent or guardian. The findings will be noted in the student's health record.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:53](#); [71:54](#); [71:56](#); [71:57](#)  
[Chapter 52 An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education and Prevention \(2016\)](#)  
[Chapter 284 An Act Relative to the Reduction of Gun Violence \(2014\)](#)

CROSS REFS.: JF, School Admissions

*Approved by the Westwood School Committee on February 16, 2017*

*First Reading: November 7, 2019*