

**IMMUNIZATIONS**

**PURPOSE:**

This policy is established by the North Kingstown School Committee for the purpose of setting its expectations regarding the fulfillment of State Regulations pertaining to the required immunizations of all students first entering North Kingstown Schools.

**PHILOSOPHY:**

The School Committee fully supports and endorses RI State Requirements regarding student immunization and established this policy with desire and intent of ensuring the health and well being of all students and staff within the North Kingstown Schools.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

Every student entering or attending a school in the North Kingstown School Department shall furnish evidence that the student has been immunized according to Immunization Regulations determined by the Department of Health. Acceptable evidence for having completed the specified immunizations shall consist of a certificate signed by a licensed physician, or an approved record of immunizations completed that the time of each immunization and signed by the physician or his agent or written proof of a positive titer when applicable.

No student will be admitted or allowed to attend a school without showing the required evidence to the principal or designee, as provided by the Rhode Island Department of Health's rules and regulations for School Health Program.

A student may only be exempt from the immunization requirements described herein for either of the two:

1. A physician, a physician assistant, a certified registered nurse practitioner, or other licensed practitioner acting within his/her scope of practice signs the Rhode Island Department of Health's "Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate" provided by the school attesting that the student is exempt from a specific vaccine because of medical reasons, in accordance with ACIP recommendations, AAP guidelines.
2. A parent or guardian completes and signs the Department's "Religious Immunization Exemption Certificate" provided by the school, attesting that immunization conflicts with the tenets of their religious beliefs.
3. The student status is included by the McKinley-Vento Act regarding homelessness.

Reference: Rhode Island Department of Health Rules and Regulations effective February 1, 1979

Adopted: 4/10/79

Amended: 10/2/89, 10/09/12