



Section: *Pupils*
Title: *HIV/AIDS Infection*
Adopted: *3.20.86*
Revised: *6.13.05*

203.1 HIV/AIDS Infection

The Board is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for its students and employees. The purpose of this policy shall be to safeguard the health and well-being of all members of the school community while protecting the rights of the individual.

This policy is based on current medical information, recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), and other sources. The Colonial School District is committed to fair treatment of any individual afflicted by HIV infection in the manner that best meets the individual's needs and the needs of the overall school community. The School District feels a very strong responsibility to the individual and will treat an individual with HIV infection with respect, compassion and dignity.

Definitions

HIV- *refers to all stages of HIV disease from initial HIV infection to AIDS.*

AIDS- *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.*

CDC- *United States Public Health Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Infected students- *refers to students diagnosed as having the HIV virus, including those who are asymptomatic.*

Authority

This policy shall apply to all students in all programs conducted by the school district.

The Board directs that the established school rules relative to illnesses and other diseases among students shall also apply to infected students.

The Board shall not require routine screening tests for HIV infected students in the school setting, nor will such tests be a condition for school attendance.

203.2 HIV/AIDS Infection - continued

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible as the central contact for handling and releasing all information concerning infected students.

All students and employees shall strive to maintain a respectful school climate and to prohibit physical or verbal harassment of individuals or groups, who are considered infected students.

All employees shall be required to consistently follow infection control/universal precautions in all settings and at all times, including playgrounds and school buses. Employees shall notify the school nurse of all incidents of exposure to bodily fluids and when a student's health condition or behavior presents a reasonable risk of transmitting an HIV infection.

Building administrators shall notify students, parents, and employees about current Board policies concerning HIV infection and shall provide reasonable opportunities to discuss the policy and related concerns.

The Superintendent or designee shall report periodically to the Board regarding the effectiveness of this policy and make recommendations for revision in accordance with developments in medical research and treatments.

Attendance, Education, and Instruction

*Infected students have the same right to attend school and receive services as any other students and shall be subject to the same policies and rules. **HIV** infection shall not factor into decisions concerning class assignments, privileges or participation in any school-sponsored activity.*

School authorities shall determine the educational placement of infected students on a case-by-case basis by following established policies and procedures for students with chronic health problems and students with disabilities.

*A Screening Team comprised of the Superintendent or designated central contact, building principal, school nurse, district physician, and including the student's parent or guardian and attending physician shall evaluate the educational placement of an infected student. Placement decisions shall be based on the infected student's behavior, neurological development, physical condition, expected interaction with others in the school setting, and the criteria proposed by the **CDC**.*

First consideration must be given to maintaining the infected student in a regular assignment. Any decision for an alternative placement must be supported by specific facts and data.

An infected student, who is unable to attend school, as determined by a medical examination, shall be considered for homebound instruction or an alternative placement.

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An infected student may be excused from school attendance if the parent or guardian seeks such excusal based on the advice of medical or psychological experts treating the student.

An infected student's placement shall be reassessed if there is a change in the student's condition or the student's need for accommodations.

Confidentiality and Disclosure

The Superintendent or designee shall determine which school personnel will receive information about an infected student. The number of individuals informed of an infected student's status shall be kept to the minimum required to assure proper care and supervision of the student as well as to protect the school population. Anonymity shall be of the highest priority.

All district employees have a duty to preserve the confidentiality of all information concerning an infected student. Serious consequences (up to and including termination of employment) shall result from a breach of confidentiality by an employee.

Information about infected students in the school setting shall not be disclosed to the general public, undesignated school employees, or other groups without a court order or the informed, written, signed and dated consent of the infected student or a parent or guardian if the student is a minor.

*All health records, notes and other documents referring to a student's **HIV** status shall be secured and maintained as highly confidential.*

Universal Precautions *Employees shall treat all bodily fluids as hazardous and shall follow universal precautions for any exposure to bodily fluids.*

The school district shall maintain and keep reasonably accessible all equipment and supplies necessary for infection control.

Staff Development

*All district employees shall participate in a planned **HIV** education program that, among others, includes factual and current information, guidance on infectious control procedures, and current legal and district policies relevant to **HIV**.*

Designated district employees shall receive additional, specialized training appropriate to their positions and responsibilities.

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Prevention Education

*The goals of **HIV** prevention education shall be to promote healthy living and discourage the behaviors that put people at risk of acquiring **HIV**. The educational program shall be taught at every level, be appropriate to students' development and maturity, and be accurate.*

*Parents and guardians shall be provided convenient opportunities to preview all **HIV** prevention curricula and materials.*

Enforcement

A person who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with applicable laws, agreements, policies, and or disciplinary codes.

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