

Policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HORTONVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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STUDENT ACCIDENTS / ILLNESS / CONCUSSION & SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

The Board believes that school personnel have certain responsibilities in case of accidents, illness or concussions that occur in school. Said responsibilities extend to the administration of first aid by person trained to do so, notifying the health office, summoning of medical assistance, notification of administration personnel, notification of parents, and the filing of accident reports.

Accidents

Employees should administer first aid within the limits of their knowledge of recommended practices. All employees should make an effort to increase their understanding of the proper steps to be taken in the event of an accident. However, any staff members or volunteer who, in good faith, renders emergency care to a student is immune from civil liability for their acts or omissions in rendering such emergency care.

The District Administrator may provide for an in-service program on first aid and CPR procedures.

The administrator in charge must submit an accident report to the Business Office and school nurse on all accidents.

Students are also responsible for complying with rules and regulations designed to protect safety, prevent injury, and protect the health and safety of others. When an injury occurs, students are responsible for informing staff, teachers, or school health aides.

Illness

School personnel shall not diagnose illness or administer medication of any kind except in accordance with Board Policy #5330 – Administering Medications to Students.

Parents are responsible for notifying the school when a child is experiencing a health problem and when voluntarily excluding their child from school if the child has a condition that poses a public health threat. See Board Policy #8450 - Control of Casual-Contract Communicable Diseases for more information.

Concussion

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury. Concussions occur when there is a forceful blow to the head or body that results in rapid movement of the head and causes any change in behavior, thinking, or physical functioning. Concussions are not limited to situations involving loss of consciousness. Some symptoms of a concussion include headache, nausea, confusion, memory difficulties, dizziness, blurred vision, anxiety, difficulty concentrating, and difficulty sleeping.

No student will be permitted to participate in any athletic activity unless that student, or if the student is under age nineteen (19) and their parent, has returned a signed concussion and head injury information

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sheet. A student is only required to return one (1) signed sheet per school year in order to participate in athletics.

A teacher or coach shall remove a student from the class, practice, activity, or game if the teacher or coach determines the student is exhibiting signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury. The student will not be permitted to return to full participation until the student is evaluated by a healthcare professional experienced in concussion management and receives a written clearance for full participate from a healthcare professional.

Parents who inform coaches and teachers that their child is being treated by a healthcare professional for a concussion must provide written clearance from that healthcare professional for full or limited participation in class, practice, activity, or competition. Prior to receiving written clearance from a healthcare professional, students who have sustained a concussion may not participate in any school-related physical activities.

Parents shall be notified about the possible concussion and given information on concussions and the need for medical attention.

Coaches and physical education staff will be trained in concussion recognition and response. Specifically, training will include information on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a concussion, how to obtain proper medical treatment in case of concussions, and return-to-play standards.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac arrest is a medical event that involves a sudden increase in the heart's ventricular beat that prevents the heart from distributing blood to the brain, lungs, and other organs. It occurs without warning and in youth athletics participants who appear healthy and have passed pre-participation physical examinations. Severe damage and death can occur very quickly without immediate treatment.

In an effort to educate parents, students, and coaches regarding this condition, information regarding sudden cardiac arrest shall be included along with distribution of the required information concerning concussions and shall be distributed to all participants aged twelve (12) and older and coaches prior to participation on youth athletic activity. The information shall contain the following information as provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA):

- A. Information about the risks associated continuing to participate in a youth activity after experiencing one (1) or more symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, including fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness, and abnormal racing heart rate;
- B. Information about electrocardiogram testing, including the potential risks, benefits, and evidentiary basis behind electrocardiogram testing; and

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- C. Information how to request, from a student's healthcare provider, the administration of an electrocardiogram in addition to a comprehensive physical examination.

Legal References

118.29 Wis. Stats.

118.293 Wis. Stats.

118.2935, Wis. Stats.

NEOLA 2024