

JGCD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES-ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME-AIDS JGCD

Medical research indicates that AIDS/HIV cannot be transmitted through casual physical contact. Therefore, AIDS-infected students, in most instances, shall be allowed to attend school in their regular classrooms so long as their attendance does not create a substantial risk of the transmission of the illness to other students or district employees. AIDS-infected persons are those who have been diagnosed as having AIDS, those who have AIDS Related Complex, or those infected with the HIV virus and who are a symptomatic carriers of such viruses (those infected by such viruses and capable of transmitting the virus, but who have not developed any of the symptoms of infection with the virus).

Due to continuing developments in AIDS medical research, a separate Communicable Disease policy has been developed to permit the Board to re-evaluate the policy as circumstances change.

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If the superintendent has reasonable cause to believe that a student is an infected individual, the following steps shall be taken:

- 1). The superintendent may require the individual to submit to a medical examination and evaluation deemed appropriate by the school district to aid in implementation of this policy.
- 2). The student's parent/guardian shall be informed that until determination of the student's appropriate educational placement, the student shall not be permitted to attend regular classes or participate in school activities. During this time, appropriate services will be provided.

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3). The student's parents or guardian must identify a physician who will be responsible for the care of the student and who will monitor the student's medical and psychological condition.

4). The determination of whether an AIDS infected student shall be permitted to attend classes or participate in school activities with other students shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the superintendent as recommended by an advisory committee composed of: the board attorney (who will serve as chairperson), a licensed medical doctor who is a resident of Unified School District No. 273, the special education director and the school nurse. Additional members of this committee may be appointed by the superintendent, as deemed appropriate, and may include the student's building principal, the parents or guardian of the student, the student's physician, the student and appropriate medical or health personnel.

In making this determination, the following shall be considered:

- the behavior, neurological development, and physical condition of the student;
- the expected type of interaction with others in the school setting; and
- the impact on both the infected student and others in that setting.

5). The advisory committee will study each case and determine the risks and benefits for the infected pupil and other pupils in the school setting. The school board's procedures for admission and assignment of pupils shall be followed in all instances and a written report of findings and recommendations based upon the most current medical information shall be forwarded to the superintendent, within a reasonable time frame. The advisory committee chairperson will be informed of the superintendent's decision. The board will also be informed of the superintendent's decision and will reserve the right to review it. Determinations made under this policy shall be reviewed by the advisory committee and superintendent at appropriate intervals.

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6). The school nurse will call the student's physician and parent/guardian on a monthly basis to determine if there have been changes in the student's health status which might require a reassessment of the educational setting. The school nurse will be responsible for notifying the committee of any changes in the student which might require a reassessment of the educational setting. If any changes in the health status of an AIDS-infected student occur which may increase the risk of transmission, the advisory committee chairperson will immediately schedule a meeting to discuss the situation. The student may be excluded from school at this time until the reassessment of the educational setting is completed. During this time, appropriate educational services will be provided.

Infected neurologically handicapped students who lack control of their bodily secretions, or who display behavior such as biting, vomiting, etc., and infected students who have uncoverable, oozing lesions, or skin eruptions, or display inappropriate behavior (biting, incontinence, etc.), shall not be permitted to attend classes or participate in school activities with other students. These students will be educated in other appropriate settings.

If a communicable disease (e.g. measles or chicken pox) occurs in a school or classroom which could be threatening to an AIDS-infected student, the infected student's parent/guardian and the student's physician will be notified so that a decision can be made as to whether the AIDS-infected student should be excluded from the school during the outbreak.

No information regarding students with AIDS will be released without parent/guardian permission in accordance with state and federal laws and with the board of education policy on student records. Therefore, the identity of an infected individual shall be revealed only to those who have a legal right to know. If an infected individual is permitted to remain in the school setting after a determination has been made, employees who will have regular personal contact with the individual shall be informed of his or her identity and provided with appropriate

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information as to the individual's medical condition, including information as to any factors that might warrant a reconsideration of whether he or she should be permitted to remain in the school setting. Employees also shall be informed of public health precautions which should be taken. Employees informed of the identity of an infected person shall not disclose such information to others except as authorized under this policy.

Any person who believes a student may be an infected person shall so inform the school nurse.

The school system and health department will immediately report known cases to each other provided a written release to exchange information between the two agencies is obtained from the student or the parents or guardian of the student.

As additional information becomes available regarding AIDS, the board of education may re-evaluate this policy and district procedures in light of:

- legal rights of students;
- information regarding appropriate hygienic procedures to reduce the risk of exposure to the AIDS virus; and
- additional medical findings.

Definitions:

AIDS – Syndrome caused by the virus HIV.

Infected – Persons who have been diagnosed as having AIDS or as being infected with HIV virus, and persons who are symptomatic carriers of such a virus (those infected by such a virus and capable of transmitting the virus, but who have not developed any of the symptoms of infection with the virus).

Physician – A person licensed as a doctor of medicine in the state of Kansas.

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