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HEALTH AND WELFARE

§8-51 Immunization RegulationsA. Initial Requirements

State law requires that no pupil shall be admitted for the first time to any school unless the school has been furnished with documentary proof of immunization from a licensed physician, registered nurse, or health department employee that the child either has been successfully immunized against communicable diseases as required by state law or has received at least the first series of all such vaccinations accompanied by a schedule of completion of the required doses. This certificate must be received prior to admitting the child to school.

If a child attended another school or school division and has school records which show that a certificate of immunization was furnished to the previous school, the principal may accept the school records as verification of proper immunization.

A student's immunizations shall be considered to be adequate if they meet the requirements as set forth in [§32.1-46](#) of the Code of Virginia.

This immunization requirement applies to all children except (1) those whose parent or guardian submits an affidavit that this administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student's religious tenets or practices or (2) those whose parent or guardian presents written certification from a licensed physician or health department that the administration of one or more of the immunizing agents may be detrimental to the health of the child or (3) a student who is a homeless child or youth and does not have documentary proof of necessary immunizations or has incomplete immunizations. This student will be admitted immediately and shall be referred to the local school division liaison, as described in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 who shall assist in obtaining the documentary proof of, or completing, immunization and other services required by such Act.

B. Failure to Complete Immunization

Any student admitted conditionally and who fails to comply with the schedule for completion of the required immunizations shall be excluded from school until immunizations are resumed. The principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent or guardian of the exclusion and follow the specified protocol for exclusion.

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§8-51 Immunization Regulations (continued)C. Record of Immunization

The certificate of immunization or the parent's affidavit of religious objection or the physician's statement that immunization may be detrimental to the child's health shall be placed in the child's school records. The certificate of immunization and school records should contain the dates of all immunizations.

Upon order of the State Health Commission, any child who has not been immunized may be excluded from school during an outbreak, potential epidemic, or epidemic of a vaccine-preventable disease.

Legal Reference: Code of Virginia §§[22.1-270](#), [22.1-271](#), [32.1-46](#), [32.1-47](#)

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