



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 14, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route to: School Nurses, School Physicians, Athletic Directors, Athletic Trainers, Coaches
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Updated Concussion Protocols and Guidance

On September 24, 2021, [P.L. 2021, c.222](#) was approved, which amended and supplemented existing protocols and guidance on head injuries sustained by student athletes, as established in P.L. 2010, c.94.. Based on this legislation's requirements, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) reviewed and updated the model concussion policy and fact sheet for student athletes.

Key steps/actions

Each district board of education, charter school, renaissance school project, and non-public school policy must comply with the minimum requirements stated in N.J.S.A. 18A: 40-41.1 - 41.4 regarding the care and treatment of student-athletes, including cheerleaders, who is suspected of sustaining a sports-related concussion or head injury. This policy must be reviewed annually, and update as necessary, to ensure that the policy reflects the most current information available on the prevention, risk, and treatment of sports-related concussions and head injuries developed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may consider providing regular education and training related to concussions for staff including administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, and school counselors regarding concussions and other head injuries.

The updated [Model Policy and Guidance for Districts on the Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Head Injuries and Concussions](#) is now available online. The updated [Concussion Fact Sheet and Acknowledgement Form](#) is also available. The fact sheet is to be distributed annually and signed by the student athlete or cheerleader and their parent or guardian. LEAs and non-public schools that distribute this form are directed to adopt the revised form and distribute the updated versions going forward. If previous versions of the form were submitted for this school year, they are acceptable. If the website of a LEA includes these documents, please verify that the previous version is removed and that it is replaced with a link to the current version.

As a reminder, the A-45 was updated in 2014 to add space to record concussion and traumatic brain injury. School nurses must document if a student is diagnosed with a concussion (as part of athletic competition or otherwise). School nurses are uniquely positioned to work with health care providers, teachers, coaches, athletic trainers, students, and parents to support student health by coordinating necessary support during recovery.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at healthysch@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group