



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 6, 2024

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

Route To: Athletic Directors, School Nurses, School Physicians

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Clarification Regarding Updated Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (PPE) Form

The New Jersey Department of Education has received numerous inquiries regarding the updated Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (PPE) Form. This broadcast has been developed to provide guidance on the most common questions received.

May a local educational agency (LEA) request the Medical History Form and Physical Evaluation Form from a student's parent or guardian prior to allowing their participation in school-sponsored sports?

The [May 22, 2024 broadcast memo](#) reminds LEAs of the mandate to use the updated PPE forms for any PPE conducted on or after July 1, 2024. This requirement applies to public and nonpublic schools. The PPE was updated jointly by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine in 2019 and 2023. The PPE is comprised of three components, the Medical History Form, the Physical Evaluation Form, and the Medical Eligibility Form. The updated form includes instructions that directs healthcare providers to only submit the Medical Eligibility Form to schools.

LEAs are permitted to request additional information if they have specific health concerns regarding a student's ability to safely participate in school-sponsored sports. However, LEAs should not set policies that broadly require the submission of all forms included in the PPE prior to allowing any student to participate in school-sponsored sports as this practice does not align with the specific instructions on the updated PPE Form. The Medical History Form and Physical Exam Form are intended to reside with the evaluating healthcare provider and not to be shared with school personnel. The request for additional student health information beyond the Medical Eligibility Form should only be made as necessary on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, when developing policies regarding the submission of the PPE, the LEA should consider whether the policy could have a disparate impact on members of a protected class.

What should an LEA do if the Medical History Form and Physical Evaluation Form are submitted along with the Medical Eligibility Form?

The healthcare provider performing the physical exam shall maintain the original records in their office as per the signed attestation statement on the medical eligibility form. A copy of the forms may be provided to the parent or guardian. If a school receives a copy of the health history form and/or physical exam form, they may accept the information and include it in the student's health record. Since the forms contain medical information about a student, record-keeping and submission procedures must comply with relevant provisions of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Can information included in the Medical History Form, Physical Evaluation Form, or Medical Eligibility Form be used to satisfy health screening requirements described in *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(l)5*?

The information from a student-athlete's Medical History Form, Physical Evaluation Form, or Medical Eligibility Form cannot replace required health screenings. As stated in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(l)5, health screenings must be performed by a school physician, school nurse, or other properly trained school personnel, regardless of the information provided in these forms.

Note, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(a)4.iii, physical examinations conducted by the school physician in the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility for students enrolled in a district should only be provided to students who do not have a medical home. Otherwise, students with a medical home should have a physical examination performed by their primary care physician.

As per the medical eligibility form, the healthcare provider completing the exam should maintain a copy of the physical examination findings in their office, even if it is performed at the school. It may be made available to the school at the request of the parents.

Are nonpublic schools required to provide parents or guardians with written notification signed by a school physician, approving or disapproving of a student's participation in school-sponsored sports?

The requirement for written notification signed by the school physician stating approval of the student's participation in athletics based upon the medical report or the reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the student's participation applies only to public schools (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)iv). Non-public schools may set their own procedure for parent notification regarding approval or disapproval for sports participation.

For additional information, LEAs may find it helpful to review the NJDOE's Scholastic Student-Athlete Safety Act (P.L. 2013, c.71) frequently asked [Questions and Answers](#). Additional questions may be directed to healthysch@doe.nj.gov.

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