

Public Notice

Education

State Board of Education

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking

Programs to Support Student Development

Required Health Services

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2

Petitioner: Amanda Hackett, RN, Public Health Nurse, Jefferson Township Department of Health.

Take notice that on June 6, 2024, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner, requesting the State Board amend N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(g) and (h) to add a requirement that medical exams for all children must be submitted to school nurses or childcare/preschool directors at the beginning of each year.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(g) and (h), collectively, require school districts to ensure that students receive medical examinations upon enrollment in school, when applying for working papers, for the purposes of the comprehensive child study team evaluation, and when a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances. The rules also require the findings of the examinations to include immunizations; medical history, including allergies, past serious illnesses, injuries, operations, medications, and current health problems; health screenings, including height, weight, hearing, blood pressure, and vision; and physical examinations.

The petitioner seeks to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(g) and (h) to make yearly health and wellness exams a requirement to attend school every new school year in the same manner as up-to-date immunizations are required. The petitioner's request states that medical exams can

prevent and detect health issues and a yearly medical exam and universal health form should be required to start school to promote equitable healthcare for all children.

The petitioner's request also states that it is especially important for children to have preventative services or well-baby check-ups to make sure illness, diseases, and development milestones are met for all children in order for health care to be equitable.

The request states that the petitioner performs immunization audits for all childcare/preschool/daycares and public schools in the Jefferson Township School District. The petitioner's request also states that many childcare facilities do not have yearly updated health forms for all children. The request stressed the importance of standardizing the need for updated yearly medical exams with updated health forms to ensure compliance across all childcare and public school facilities to detect or address health issues and prevent illness, which the petition indicated will promote equitable healthcare access for all children.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2, the Department shall subsequently mail to the petitioner, and file with the Office of Administrative Law, a notice of action on the petition as it relates to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.7.