

Sebastopol Independent Charter School

**IMMUNIZATION POLICY**

BP 5141.31

Adopted: 2020.12.07

The Board of Directors of the Sebastopol Independent Charter School has adopted this Policy in adherence with all laws related to legally required immunizations for entering pupils pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 120325-120380, and Title 17, California Code of Regulations Sections 6000-6075.

All pupils enrolling in SICS must present an immunization record that shows at least the month and year of each immunization in accordance with law. Pupils shall be excluded from school or exempted from immunization requirements only as permitted by law.

**School Entry Requirements**

School entry requirements for immunization must be in compliance with SB277 and SB276, and any later-enacted amendment to immunization rules. Full details for the California Department of Public Health immunizations requirements can be found at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org).

The following information from December, 2020 reflects immunization requirements as of that date, but is not necessarily the most updated information.

1. Pupils Entering Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten, or Grades 1-6
  - a. Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Acellular Pertussis (DTaP): Five (5) doses
    - i. Four doses of DTaP meet the requirement if one dose was given on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.
    - ii. Three doses meet the requirement if at least one dose of Tdap, DTaP, or DTP vaccine was given on or after the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday.
    - iii. One or two doses of Td vaccine given on or after the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday count toward this requirement.
  - b. Polio: Four (4) doses
    - i. Three doses of polio vaccine meet the requirement if one dose was given on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - c. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR): Two (2) doses
    - i. Two doses of measles, two doses of mumps, and one dose of rubella vaccine meet the requirement, separately or combined.
    - ii. Only doses administered on or after the 1st birthday meet the requirement.
  - d. Hepatitis B: Three (3) doses
  - e. Varicella (chickenpox): Two (2) doses

## 2. Pupils Entering Grade Seven

- a. All K-6 doses
- b. Tetanus, reduced Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis (Tdap): One (1) dose
  - i. For 7th-12th graders, at least one dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is required on or after the 7th birthday.
- c. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR): Two (2) doses
  - i. All doses received prior to seventh grade entry count toward this requirement.
  - ii. The varicella requirement for seventh grade advancement expires after June 30, 2025.

All pupils from out of state must show proof of varicella (chickenpox) immunization.

### **Exemptions**

California law requires children to be immunized. Children are exempt from immunization requirements only if a parent/guardian submits a written statement from a licensed physical (M.D. or D.O.) that states:

- That the specific nature of the physical condition or medical circumstance of the child is such that the required immunization(s) is not indicated;
- Which specific vaccines are being exempted;
- Whether the expiration date is permanent or temporary; and
- If the exemption is temporary, an expiration date of no more than 12 calendar months from the date of signing.

Parents of pupils with existing medical exemptions will need to submit a new exemption when the pupil begins a new “grade span,” defined as birth to preschool, kindergarten and grades 1-6, and grades 7-12. Effective January 1, 2021, SICS can only accept a medical immunization if submitted electronically directly into the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) utilizing a standard form.

Effective January 1, 2016, SICS can no longer accept a personal-beliefs exemption. Personal-belief exemptions filed prior to that date remain valid until the child enrolls in the next grade span.

### **Procedure**

The Executive Director shall not unconditionally admit any pupil to SICS unless that pupil has presented documentation of full immunization.

A pupil can be conditionally admitted if he/she lacks documentation for unconditional admission and the pupil has:

- Commenced receiving doses of all the vaccines required for the pupil's grade and is not currently due for any doses at the time of admission as determined by the Conditional Admission Schedule; or
- A temporary medical exemption from some or all required immunizations (17 CCR section 6050).

Continued attendance after conditional admission is contingent upon documentation of receipt of the remaining required immunizations. A new/transfer pupil may be conditionally admitted for up to 30 school days while his/her immunization records are being transferred from the previous school. If these records do not arrive within 30 school days, the pupil shall present written documentation by a physician, nurse, or clinic showing that the required immunizations were received. If such documentation is not presented, the pupil shall be excluded from school until immunization requirements are met or up to 10 excluded days, whichever occurs first. After 10 excluded days, the student may be disenrolled by the school and referred to the home district.

Parents/guardians will be notified of the rights of pupils and parents/guardians related to immunizations as a part of the new enrollment packet and on the enrollment page on the website. The cover letter of that packet will indicate that enrollment paperwork cannot be finalized until immunization records are received. Immunizations must be completed and proof of same provided to SICS by the deadline indicated on the enrollment packet. A failure to provide immunization records by the date specified on the enrollment packet will result in the enrollment packet being deemed incomplete and the pupil's offer of admission will be withdrawn and the pupil will lose his/her seat at SICS.

Parents/guardians of rising seventh grade pupils will receive information in the spring on immunizations required to continue enrollment in seventh grade. Immunizations must be completed and proof of same provided to SICS by the deadline indicated on the spring notice.

It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to review all notices sent by SICS via email and/or mail. A failure to do so will not result in an extension of required timelines to provide proof of immunizations.

### **Exclusions Due to Lack of Immunizations**

Any pupil without the required evidence of immunization must be excluded from school until the immunization is obtained or until the pupil presents a letter or affidavit of exemption from his/her parent/guardian or physician.

Before a pupil is excluded from school attendance because of lack of immunization, the Executive Director shall notify the parent/guardian that he/she has ten business days in which to supply evidence of proper immunization or an appropriate letter of exemption. This notice shall refer the parent/guardian to the child's usual source of medical care. If no usual source of medical care exists, the parent/guardian shall be referred to the county health department.

The Executive Director shall exclude from further attendance any pupil who fails to obtain the required immunization within ten business days following receipt of the parent/guardian notice specified above unless the pupil is exempt from immunization for medical reasons. The pupil

shall remain excluded from school until he/she has received another dose of each required vaccine due at that time.

The Executive Director may involuntarily remove a pupil from SICS if the pupil's parents/guardians do not comply with this procedure and/or if a pupil has failed to meet a conditional admission schedule within 10 days of the student being excluded from school. Removal will be effective as of the date listed in the Executive Director's written notice of same, which shall be no sooner than five (5) school days after the written notice is provided to parents/guardians. Any affected pupil will be excluded from school from the date of the Executive Director's written notice.

Contact information will be accessed from the enrollment records. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to check their contact sources provided to the school for messages from the school. If the family does not respond to the school's attempts for information, the school will proceed with removing the pupil from SICS.

*Related California Department of Public Health (CDPH) regulations, guidelines, and FAQs are posted at [www.shotsforschools.org](http://www.shotsforschools.org).*