

POLICY: SB277 – New Students Enrolling in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) or Kindergarten (K), and Personal Belief Exemptions (PBE) for the 2016-17 School Year

THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE and is based on legal counsel's review of SB 277 and the current immunization statutes and regulations as of December 3, 2015. The California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") has not yet issued definitive regulations providing further guidance on SB 277. Should CDPH issue regulations which counter any part of this policy, SICS will update this policy to be in compliance with the law. CDPH regulations and guidelines are posted at www.shotsforschools.org.

Based on current immunization statutes and regulations as of December 3, 2015, for the 2016-17 school year, in order to enroll a new TK/K student without the required immunizations who is claiming a PBE, the TK/K student must (in addition to meeting the other TK/K enrollment requirements):

- 1) Have been eligible to be enrolled in a TK/K program in California in 2015-16, including having his or her fifth birthday during the same school year (i.e. prior to June 30, 2016);
- 2) Have been actually enrolled in a TK/K program in a California "private or public elementary school" [see note below] in 2015-16;
- 3) Have filed a letter or affidavit stating beliefs opposed to immunization with that school or educational institution prior to January 1, 2016; and
- 4) Present that filed letter or affidavit to SICS prior to enrollment.

Note [(2)]: The school's criteria for determining if an institution is a California "private elementary school" are: (1) the school has filed a Private School Affidavit (PSA) with the California Department of Education (and, as such, is listed in the CDE's *Private School Directory*) and (2) the school has submitted an immunization assessment report to local health departments and/or CDPH Immunization Branch.