

## 602.16AP *School Act* Medical Exclusions

### Purpose

Section 91 of the *School Act* provides for specific circumstances in which a student may be excluded from school. This Administrative Procedure is intended to ensure transparency when this extraordinary situation occurs.

### Procedures

#### 1. Medical Exclusions by the Medical Health Officer

- 1.1. Under Section 91 (2) and (3) if the School Medical Officer considers a student's health condition endangers the health or welfare of students or the employees of the District, the School Medical Officer must report the name of the student to the Superintendent and the Board must promptly exclude from school the student whose health condition is reported by the School Medical Officer as being dangerous.
- 1.2. A student who is excluded under subsection (3) must not be permitted to return to school until a certificate is received signed by the School Medical Officer permitting the student to return to school.

#### 2. Medical Exclusions by District Staff

- 2.1. Under Section 91 (5) if a teacher, administrator, or the Director of Instruction suspects a student is suffering from a communicable disease (as defined by Island Health) or other physical, mental, or emotional condition that would endanger the health or welfare of the other students, the matter must be reported to the School Medical Officer and the student may be excluded from school attendance until a certificate is obtained for the student from the School Medical Officer, a private medical practitioner, or a private nurse practitioner.
- 2.2. Such exclusions should be engaged only extraordinary circumstances. They are most often applied when:
  - 2.2.1. the student and/or the student's family is unwilling to follow through on recommendations for medical intervention;
  - 2.2.2. the student and/or the student's family is unwilling to provide sufficient medical information for the District to ensure a safe learning environment; or
  - 2.2.3. in the cases in which the student's behaviour is becoming progressively more dangerous to themselves and others, despite extensive consultation and ongoing staff attempts to implement safety interventions and highly specialized programming.

#### 3. Steps in Initiating a Medical Exclusion

- 3.1. The Principal shall consult with their Director of Instruction.
- 3.2. A meeting shall be arranged to discuss the possibility of exclusion with the Director of Instruction, the Principal, the parents, appropriate District Learning Services staff, and

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appropriate Health Care or Social Services professionals already involved in supporting the parent.

- 3.3. The purpose of the meeting will be to review relevant documentation and concerns and develop a plan of action with regard to the student. The Director of Instruction will chair the meeting.
  - 3.4. Following the meeting, the Director of Instruction in consultation with the relevant Assistant Superintendent will determine whether a medical exclusion is appropriate as part of the plan of action for the student and consistent with the requirements of this AP;
  - 3.5. If a decision is made to exclude the student pursuant to section 91 (5), the Assistant Superintendent will advise the Superintendent, the Principal, and the School Medical Officer.
  - 3.6. A letter from the Director of Instruction will advise the parents that the student may not return to school until the appropriate medical practitioner is satisfied that the student's behaviour or condition no longer endangers the health or welfare of other students or District employees. In cases where the mental health condition of a student is in question, a certificate from a psychiatrist or psychologist may be required. A copy of this certificate would then be directed to both the Assistant Superintendent and the School Medical Officer indicating treatment has been initiated/completed.
  - 3.7. The Assistant Superintendent shall inform the Superintendent of the exclusion. All medical exclusions are then brought to the Board for information in private session.
4. Actions During a Medical Exclusion
    - 4.1. The Director of Instruction will work with the Principal to arrange for appropriate educational programming and resources during the course of the student's exclusion.
    - 4.2. The student's status will be monitored by the Director of Instruction until they return to school.
5. Preparing for a student's return from a Medical Exclusion
    - 5.1. When the certificate is received indicating that it is appropriate to lift the exclusion, the Director of Instruction will convene a meeting with appropriate District and external staff and parents to review the certificate's recommendations and to consult on and develop an appropriate return to school and educational plan for the student.
    - 5.2. The educational plan may include a gradual return to school and/or partial day program that is consistent with the needs of the student.
    - 5.3. The Director of Instruction will provide a written outline detailing the terms under which the exclusion will be lifted and the program and/or school placement to which the student has been assigned, with appropriate staff, parents, and others who are part of the student's care team as relevant.

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