

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	HIV Infection
Number	203.1
Status	Active
Adopted	May 10, 2010

Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for its students and employees. The Board in consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department has developed this policy to safeguard the health and well-being of students and staff while protecting the rights of the individual.

This policy is based on current evidence that the HIV/AIDS virus is not normally transmissible by infected individuals within the school setting, except as noted in this policy.

Definitions

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.[\[1\]](#)

HIV - refers to the disease caused by the HIV or human immunodeficiency virus.

Infected students - refers to students diagnosed as having the HIV virus, including those who are asymptomatic and students diagnosed with clinical AIDS.

Authority

This policy shall apply to all students in all programs conducted by the school district.

The Board directs that the established school rules relative to illnesses and other diseases among students shall also apply to infected students.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The Board shall not require routine screening tests for HIV/AIDS infection in the school setting, nor will such tests be a condition for school attendance.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible as the central contact for handling and releasing all information concerning infected students.

All district employees shall strive to maintain a respectful school climate and to prohibit physical or verbal harassment of any individual or group, including infected students.[5]

All employees shall be required to consistently follow infection control/universal precautions in all settings and at all times, including playgrounds and school buses. Employees shall notify the school nurse of all incidents of exposure to bodily fluids and when a student's health condition or behavior presents a reasonable risk of transmitting an infection.

Building administrators shall notify students, parents/guardians and employees about current Board policies concerning HIV/AIDS infection and shall provide reasonable opportunities to discuss the policy and related concerns.

Guidelines

Attendance

Infected students have the same right to attend school and receive services as any other students and shall be subject to the same policies and rules. HIV/AIDS infection shall not factor into decisions concerning class assignments, privileges or participation in any school-sponsored activity.[4][5]

Written permission from the infected individual, or the parent/guardian shall be obtained before HIV/AIDS related information may be shared between the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and the district. This is a requirement of The Pennsylvania Act 148 and The Confidentiality of HIV Related Information Act. When school authorities or the ACHD learn of a student who is HIV/AIDS infected, a standard procedure should be followed to determine if there is any secondary infection or any condition that may pose a risk. This process includes arranging a meeting in which the Superintendent, a representative from the ACHD, the infected individual and parent/guardian, and the individual's physician decide what, if any accommodations or changes should be made. This decision shall be based on the assessment of risk. If there is no recognized risk, the person's educational program should not be altered. If it is determined that there is a recognized risk, the same group will develop accommodations tailored to the individual's situation.[14]

An infected student who is unable to attend school, as determined by a medical examination, shall be considered for homebound instruction or an alternative placement.[6][7][8]

An infected student may be excused from school attendance if the parent/guardian seeks such excusal based on the advice of medical or psychological experts treating the student.[3][6][9]

An infected student's placement shall be reassessed if there is a change in the student's need for accommodations or services. The ACHD shall assist in the periodic monitoring of the student's health status.

Confidentiality

No person who obtains confidential HIV/AIDS-related information in the course of providing any health or special service can release that information except as authorized by law.[10]

All health records, notes and other documents referring to a student's HIV/AIDS status shall be secured and kept confidential.[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

Infection Control

Employees shall treat all bodily fluids as hazardous and shall follow universal precautions for any exposure to bodily fluids.[\[15\]](#)

In order to protect everyone in the school environment, standard infection control procedures will be followed. The standard guidelines will be the most recent published by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control. That being the document entitled "Guidelines for Prevention of Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Virus to Health Care and Public Safety Workers." The district shall also comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Blood Borne Pathogen Standard.

The school district shall maintain and keep reasonably accessible all equipment and supplies necessary for infection control.

Staff Development

The district shall provide opportunities for employees to participate in inservice education programs on HIV/AIDS.

Designated district employees shall receive additional, specialized training appropriate to their positions and responsibilities.

Prevention Education

The goals of HIV/AIDS prevention education shall be to promote healthy living and discourage the behaviors that put people at risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS. Prevention education shall be taught according to state regulation, be appropriate to students' developmental maturity, and include accurate information about reducing the risk of HIV/AIDS infection.[\[12\]](#)

Prior to HIV Infection instruction in the schools, the district shall inform parents/guardians that curriculum outlines and materials used in the instruction shall be available for review.[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

A student shall be excused from HIV Infection education when the instruction conflicts with the religious beliefs or principles of the student or parents/guardians, upon the written request of the parents/guardians.[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

Legal

1. [35 P.S. 7603](#)
2. Pol. 203
3. Pol. 204
4. [24 P.S. 1327](#)
5. Pol. 103
6. [24 P.S. 1329](#)
7. [22 PA Code 11.25](#)
8. Pol. 117
9. [24 P.S. 1330](#)
10. [35 P.S. 7607](#)
11. [24 P.S. 1409](#)
12. [22 PA Code 4.29](#)
13. [22 PA Code 4.4](#)
14. [35 P.S. 7601 et seq](#)
15. Administrative Regulation - 203.1-AR
[24 P.S. 1301](#)

Last Modified by Donna Beley on January 29, 2018