IMMUNIZATION POLICY

All children attending RSU #29 must be immunized in accordance with Maine state regulations & law (D.O.E. Chapter 126 & 20-A M.R.S.A. #6354-55 & Me. Dept. of Educ. Rule Ch. 126 (May 10, 2018 With the enactment of L.D 798, “An Act to Protect Maine Children and Students from Preventable Diseases by Repealing Certain Exemption from the Laws Governing Immunization Requirements” in 2019, exemption based on religious or philosophical beliefs is no longer available effective September 1, 2021. The exemptions allowed in the law are primarily for medical reasons, with very few exceptions. A written statement from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant explaining the medical exemption to immunization must be filed annually in the student’s record. In order to register their child in RSU #29, parents/guardians must submit an official document of immunization or a written medical exemption to immunization letter, or registration will not be completed.

Maine State Law requires certain vaccinations only. Parents/guardians are urged to consult with their family physician or public health agency regarding additional doses and types of available vaccines.

Non-immunized students shall not be permitted to attend school unless one of the following conditions is met:

A. The student’s parent/guardian provides to the school written assurance that the child will be immunized within 90 days of enrolling in a RSU #29 school or his/her first attendance in classes, whichever date is earlier. This option is available only once to each student during their school career; or

B. The parent/guardian provides a written statement each year from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that, in his/her professional judgment, immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable (as defined by law/regulation); or

C. Up until September 1, 2021, the parents/guardians state in writing each year that immunization is contrary to their sincere religious or philosophical beliefs; or

D. A student covered by an IEP who elected a religious or philosophical exemption prior to September 1, 2021 may continue to attend school under the existing exemption so long as the parent/guardian or the student, if 18 years of age or older, provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that he/she has consulted with the parent/guardian or student and has made the parent/guardian or student aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.

All students who are not immunized in compliance with statute shall be excluded from school during an outbreak to the vaccine-preventable disease for which the student is not immunized. The exclusion will be for the period of time as determined by the CDC.

The school must make arrangements to meet the educational needs of any child excluded from school. The child’s educational needs may be met by making arrangements for the delivery of school assignments, correction of papers, and similar activities which can be accomplished at home. Any child who is unable to take examinations during this period shall be afforded the opportunity to make up the examinations.

The superintendent/designee will be responsible for developing such administrative procedures as are necessary to implement this policy and comply with statutory and regulatory requirements.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA, Section 6354, 6355, D.O.E. Chapter 126
Cross Reference: JLCC – Communicable/Infectious Disease
JRA- Student Educational Records

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