



Health Examinations, Immunizations, and Oral Health Assessment Policy

The Charter School is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all Charter School students, by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene and respond to general physical health related conditions.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Health Examinations, Immunizations and Oral Health Assessments Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Explain the Health Examinations as a Condition of Enrollment
2. Outline the Health Examinations Performed By the School
3. Establish the Immunizations as a Condition of Enrollment
4. Outline Immunization Exemptions from Requirements
5. Establish the Oral Health Assessments as a Condition of Enrollment
6. Outline the Reporting Requirements to County Office of Education and Health Departments

1. Health Examinations as a Condition of Enrollment: On or before the 90th day after a student's entrance into first grade at The Cottonwood School (the "School"), all students must provide a certificate approved by the California Department of Health Care Services documenting that within the prior 18 months, the child had received the appropriate health screening and evaluation services as provided by Health & Safety Code section 124040. Alternatively, the student may provide a waiver signed by the student's parents/guardians indicating that they do not want or are unable to obtain the health screening and evaluation services for their child. If the waiver indicates that the parents/guardians are unable to obtain services for the child, the reasons why should be included in the waiver. If the student fails to provide the required documentation, the student will be excluded from the School for not more than five days. In limited circumstances, up to five percent of the School's first grade enrollment may obtain exemptions from exclusion if the School contacts the student's parents/guardians at least twice before the 90th day after entrance to the first grade and they refuse to provide either a certificate or waiver. These exemptions shall only be used in extraordinary circumstances, including, but not limited to, family situations of great dysfunction or disruption, including substance abuse by parents or guardians, child abuse or child neglect.

2. Health Examinations by the School: The Governing Board recognizes that periodic health examinations of students may lead to the detection and treatment of conditions that impact learning. Health examinations also may help in determining whether special adaptations of the School's program are necessary. The School shall conduct health examinations of students as needed to insure proper care of the students. A parent/guardian may file annually with the

School's Principal a statement in writing, signed by the parent/guardian, stating that he/she will not consent to a physical examination of his/her child. The student will thereafter be exempt from physical examinations, but if there is good reason to believe that the student is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the student will be sent home and not be permitted to return to school until the Principal is satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

Vision Appraisals: During the kindergarten year, or upon first enrollment in the School if it is the student's first entry in a California school, and in grades 2, 5 and 8, the School shall appraise the student's vision. The school need not appraise a student's vision in the year immediately following the student's first enrollment or entry if the student's first enrollment or entry occurs in grade 4 or 7. The appraisal shall include tests for visual acuity, including near vision and color vision, although the color vision shall be appraised once and only on male students, the results of which shall be entered in the health records and need not begin until the student is in first grade. Classroom teachers are responsible for continuous and regular observation of the student's eyes, appearance, behavior visual performance, and perception that might indicate vision difficulties. Where a student's school performance begins to give evidence that the existence of the problem might be caused by a visual difficulty, a visual evaluation shall be done in consultation with the school nurse.

A student's vision may be appraised by using an eye chart or any other scientifically validated photoscreening test. Photoscreening tests shall be performed, under an agreement with, or the supervision of, an optometrist or ophthalmologist, by the school nurse or a trained individual who meets requirements established by the CDE.

The vision evaluation may be waived by the parents/guardians if they present a certificate from a physician and surgeon, a physician assistant, or an optometrist setting out the results of a determination of the child's vision, including visual acuity and color vision. Parents/guardians may also avoid the testing and observation if they file with the Principal a statement in writing that they adhere to the faith or teachings of any well-recognized religious sect, denomination, or organization and in accordance with its creed, tenets or principles depend for healing upon prayer in the practice of their religion.

Scoliosis Screening: Every female student in grade 7 and every male student in grade 8 shall be screened for the condition known as scoliosis. The screening shall be in accordance with standards established by the State Department of Education. The screening shall take place during the regular school day and any staff time devoted to these activities shall be redirected from other ongoing activities not related to the student's health care. If a student is suspected of having scoliosis, the School will notify the parents/guardians. The notice will include an explanation of scoliosis, the significance of treating it at an early age, and the public services available, after diagnosis, for treatment.

The Principal, or designee, shall ensure that staff employed to examine students are fully qualified to do so and exercise proper care of each student and that examination results are kept confidential. Records related to these examinations shall be available only in accordance with law.

The Principal may make reports to the Governing Board regarding the number of students found to have physical problems and the effort made to correct them from time to time. The reports shall in no way reveal the identity of students.

Hearing: The School will provide for the testing of hearing of each student enrolled in the school in kindergarten or first grade and again in second, fifth, eighth, tenth or eleventh and first entry into the California public school system. The School may request a waiver for the hearing screening test for tenth and/or eleventh grade pupils once each school year. The waiver request will include the dates of the school year for which the waiver is requested and an alternative testing plan that will ensure that each pupil at risk of hearing loss will receive testing services.

Pupils at risk of hearing loss are: those exposed to loud noises, including loud music, pupils that have been referred for testing by a parent or teacher, repeat tests for those pupils for whom there was a previously documented problem, pupils who have not had a hearing test for three years; and any student who has enrolled for the first time in the School.

Each student enrolled in a special education program, other than those pupils enrolled for a hearing problem, shall be given a hearing test when enrolled in the program and every third year thereafter. Hearing tests may be given more frequently as needed, based on the individual education program team's evaluation of each individual student.

The School will provide parents/guardians of children who fail the hearing tests with a written notification of the test results and recommend that a medical and audiological evaluation be obtained under certain circumstances identified in regulation.

Dates and results of all screening hearing testing shall be recorded on each pupil's health record. The School will prepare an annual report of the school hearing testing program using Annual Report of Hearing Testing forms, PM 100, provided by the State Department of Health Services.

The School shall endeavor to follow the equipment standards, test environments, and testing procedures identified in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, section 2951.

3. Immunizations:

The Cottonwood School (or "Charter School") will adhere to all laws related to legally required immunizations for entering students pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 120325-120380, and Title 17, California Code of Regulations Sections 6000-6075.

Required Immunizations, Records and Reports

California law requires that an immunization record be presented to The Cottonwood School staff before a child can be unconditionally enrolled in school. The Cottonwood School requires written verification from a doctor or immunization clinic of the following immunizations:

Entering students who are not exempt will need the following immunization requirements:

Child's Grade	Immunization	Dosage
Entering Kindergarten ¹	Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DTaP)	Five (5) doses
	Polio	Four (4) doses
	Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)	Two (2) doses
	Hepatitis B (Hep B)	Three (3) doses
	Varicella (chickenpox)	Two (2) doses
Entering 7 th Grade ²	Tetanus, reduced Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis (Tdap)	One (1) dose
	Varicella	Two (2) Doses

Verification of immunizations will be completed with written medical records from the child's doctor or immunization clinic. Immunization records shall be part of the mandatory permanent pupil record and shall be kept in accordance with The Cottonwood School's Educational Records and Student Information Policy. The Cottonwood School will file a written report on the immunization status of all new entrants to The Cottonwood School with the California Department of Public Health, on at least an annual basis, as required by law.

¹ **NOTE:** Four doses of DTaP are allowed if one was given on or after the fourth birthday. Three doses meet the requirement if at least one dose of Tdap, DTaP, or DTP vaccine was given on or after the seventh birthday (also meets the 7th-12th grade Tdap requirement.) One or two doses of Td vaccine given on or after the seventh birthday count towards the requirement. Three doses of Polio are allowed if one was given on or after fourth birthday. MMR doses must be given on or after first birthday. Two doses of measles, two doses of mumps, and one dose of rubella vaccine meet the requirement, separately or combined. Combination vaccines (e.g., MMRV) meet the requirements for individual component vaccines.

² **NOTE:** In order to begin seventh grade, students who had a valid personal belief exemption on file with a public or private elementary or secondary school in California before January 1, 2016 must meet all requirements for children 7-17 years old (i.e., polio, MMR, chickenpox/varicella and primary series for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), **in addition to** the seventh grade requirements for Tdap (at least one dose of pertussis-containing vaccine on or after the seventh birthday) and two (2) doses of Varicella (varicella requirement for seventh grade advancement expires after June 30, 2025).

Any child leaving the United States for a short vacation to or long stay in any country considered by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) to have increased risk of TB exposure MUST contact the County Tuberculosis Clinic for a TB Screening upon return.

The Cottonwood School shall immediately admit a foster child, as defined in Education Code § 48853.5(a), and a homeless child, as defined in Section 11434a(2) of Title 42 of the United States Code, even if the foster or homeless child’s immunization records are not available or are missing. However, this does not alter The Cottonwood School’s obligation to obtain immunization records for foster and homeless students or to ensure the full immunization of foster and homeless students as required by law.

If The Cottonwood School discovers that an admitted student who was previously believed to be in compliance with the immunization requirements is subsequently discovered to not be in compliance with either the unconditional admission requirements or the conditional admission requirements, The Cottonwood School will notify the student’s parent/guardian of: 1) the time period within which the doses must be received, which may be no more than ten (10) school days after notification; and 2) that the student shall continue in attendance only if the parent/guardian provides documentation that the immunization requirements have been met within the time period designated by the School. If the student does not provide documentation of having received all required immunizations within the time period designated by The Cottonwood School, The Cottonwood School shall exclude this student from attendance. The student shall remain excluded from The Cottonwood School until the student is fully immunized as required by law. The student shall also be reported to the administration.

The Principal, or designee, may arrange for a licensed physician or a qualified registered nurse to administer immunizations at The Cottonwood School to any student whose parent/guardian has consented in writing.

Conditional Admittance

Students may be conditionally admitted in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 120340 and Title 17, California Code of Regulations Section 6035. The Principal or designee shall notify the student’s parents/guardians of the date by which the student must complete all the remaining doses. The Principal or designee shall review the immunization record of each student admitted conditionally at least every thirty (30) days from the date of admission until that student has received all the required immunizations or submitted an exemption. If a student conditionally admitted fails to fulfill the conditions of admission, The Cottonwood School will prohibit the student from further attendance until that student has been fully immunized as required by law.

Documentary Proof

The Principal shall maintain the student’s immunization information in the student’s mandatory permanent record and shall file annual immunization status reports as required by the California Department of Public Health.

Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

All students must be fully immunized in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, the California Code of Regulations, and this Policy with the following exceptions:

1. Students who show proof of a medical exemption by a physician licensed to practice medicine in California pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 120370.
 - a. Commencing January 1, 2021, the California Department of Public Health standardized medical exemption form shall be the only documentation of a medical exemption that the School shall accept.
 - b. On and after July 1, 2021, the School shall not unconditionally admit or readmit, or admit or advance any student to 7th grade, unless the student has been fully immunized or files a California Department of Public Health standardized medical exemption form as required by law.
 - c. Medical exemptions issued before January 1, 2020 will continue to remain valid until the child enrolls in the next grade span, defined below.
2. Students who are enrolled in a home-based private school or independent study program and do not receive any classroom-based instruction.
 - a. A student who has not received all of the required immunizations will not be eligible to attend classes at a Charter School resource center unless the student is otherwise exempt under #1 or #3.
3. Students who, prior to January 1, 2016, submitted a letter or affidavit on file at a private or public elementary or secondary school in California stating beliefs opposed to immunization, and who provides said letter or affidavit to The Cottonwood School, shall be allowed to enroll at The Cottonwood School without being fully immunized until the student enrolls in the next grade span pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 120335(g).
 - a. "Grade span" means each of the following:
 - i. Birth to Preschool.
 - ii. Kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, including transitional kindergarten.
 - iii. Grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

If there is good cause to believe that a child has been exposed to a disease listed in subdivision (b) of Section 120335 and his or her documentary proof of immunization status does not show proof of immunization against that disease, that child may be temporarily excluded from the School until the local health officer is satisfied that the child is no longer at risk of developing or transmitting the disease.

This Policy does not prohibit a student who qualifies for an individualized education program ("IEP"), pursuant to federal law and Education Code Section 56026, from accessing any special education and related services required by the student's IEP.

- 4. Oral Health Assessment:** By May 31 of each school year, students entering kindergarten or the first grade (who have not attended kindergarten) must present proof to the school of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist, or other licensed or registered dental health professional. The oral health assessment must have been performed no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of initial enrollment.

A student may be excused from this requirement if his/her parent or guardian indicates on the approved form provided by the school one or more of the following reasons apply:

- The oral health assessment poses an undue financial burden on the parent/guardian;
- The parent/guardian lacks access to a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional; or
- The parent/guardian does not consent to the assessment.

Upon initial enrollment in kindergarten or first grade, the school will notify parent/guardians of the required oral health assessment on the California Department of Education approved form.

Report to County Office of Education: By July 1 of each year, the school will submit a report to a system designated by the state dental director for the collection of those reports or the County Office of Education containing the following information:

- the total number of pupils in the school who are subject to the oral health assessment requirements of the statute;
- the total number of pupils who submitted proof of an assessment;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment due to financial burden;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment due to lack of access to a dentist;
- the total number of pupils who could not complete the assessment because their parents/guardians did not consent;
- the total number of pupils who are assessed and found to have had caries experience;
- the total number of pupils who are assessed and found to have untreated decay;
- the total number of pupils who did not return either the assessment form or the waiver request to the school