



Section Four: Students

“Together We Learn”

445 – HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND OTHER BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES (STUDENTS)

Introduction

The Board of Education recognizes and respects the rights of all students, as defined in law and in Board policies, and recognizes its obligation to promote the safe delivery of services to the public. The Board also supports the interests of students challenged by illness to pursue activities which their condition allows, including continuing attendance at school.

Policy

1. Students with HIV infection and/or AIDS related illnesses and/or other blood-borne pathogens (e.g. Hepatitis B, C) who are able to attend school in a satisfactory manner without posing a health/safety hazard to themselves or others, will be entitled to continue attending school. If their condition does not permit productive, safe, full-time attendance, the Board will address this compassionately (as outlined in 445R).
2. There is no current medical reason why it is unsafe for a student infected with HIV and/or other blood-borne pathogens (e.g. Hepatitis B, C) to attend school. Therefore, the identity of students infected with HIV and/or other blood-borne pathogens (e.g. Hepatitis B, C) shall be confidential. Dissemination of information shall be restricted to those who need to know, the Superintendent of Schools and those who the Superintendent deems should be informed. In deciding who should be informed, the Superintendent shall seek the cooperation and assistance of the District Medical Health Officer.
3. The definitions and procedures set out in this policy are subject to current medical knowledge and will be updated, as required.
4. **Definitions:**
 - **AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)**
This is the most severe manifestation of the HIV infection. When an individual is diagnosed as having AIDS, they are not only infected with HIV, but the immune system is so damaged that other diseases (called "opportunistic infections or OIs") develop.
 - **HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)**
This is the virus that causes AIDS.



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- **HBV (Hepatitis B) and HCV (Hepatitis C) Pathogens**
These are the viruses responsible for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, inflammations of the liver spread by blood and serum derived fluids, and by direct contact with body fluids.
- **Sero Converted or Tested Positive for HIV**
A blood test has indicated that the individual is infected with HIV. There may be no signs of illness.

Any reference in the policy and/or procedures to the term HIV refers to any or all of the above definitions, except HBV and HCV.