

THE METRO EAST MONTESSORI SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Immunization Policy (“Policy”) is to protect the health and safety of the students at Metro East Montessori School (“MEMS”), and to minimize the exposure to and transmission of preventable communicable diseases at MEMS by creating and enforcing certain immunization standards for students, consistent with state requirements.

DEFINITIONS

“**Fully immunized**” means, at a minimum, that the student has received the immunizations required by Illinois law and regulation for attendance at public schools.

“**New student**” means a student who is newly enrolled in MEMS, including siblings of current students, or students returning to MEMS after attending school elsewhere, including homeschooling.

“**Proof of Immunization**” means documented evidence of the child having received a vaccine, which is verified by a health care provider, such as a physician child care or school health professional, or health official, or document proof of the applicable disease.

“**Student,**” “**child,**” or “**enrollee**” means any individual who is an existing or returning student at MEMS, or has been accepted for admission at MEMS.

“**Exempted Students**” means students who are enrolled at MEMS as of October 20, 2017 or students who are on the wait list as of October 20, 2017.

POLICY

The State of Illinois and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommend certain immunizations for school-age children. It is therefore the policy of MEMS that, as of October 20 2017, each enrolled student, subject to the exemption below, is fully immunized and current on all recommended immunizations for such student’s status and age, as required by state law. (See 77 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 665.230 and 240). The proof of immunization shall be presented to MEMS within seven (7) days of student’s receipt of MEMS’ acceptance letter. The student’s proof of immunizations must be on file at MEMS before the student’s first day of attendance.

Exempted Students shall not be required to receive immunizations provided they present a valid medical or religious waiver to MEMS.

- A. **Medical Waiver:** Parents or legal guardians of Exempted Students claiming a medical waiver must submit or have on file at MEMS either: (i) a health examination form that is signed by the child's examining physician stating what medical condition the child has; or (ii) a statement from a licensed physician stating that the physician believes the child is protected against the disease for which immunization is required, stating the reasons for the physician's belief, and certifying that the physician believes the specific immunization in question is not necessary or indicated. In the event the physical condition of the child changes, thereby permitting the immunization at a later date, the child must then comply with the requirements of this Policy.
- B. **Religious Waiver:** Parents or legal guardians of Exempted Students claiming a religious waiver must present a signed Certificate of Religious Exemption (provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health) to MEMS detailing the grounds for objection and the specific immunizations, tests, or examinations to which they object. The grounds for objection must set forth the specific religious belief that conflicts with the examination, test, immunization or other medical intervention. General philosophical or moral reluctance does not provide a sufficient basis for an exception as required by law.

Subject to the requirements herein, MEMS will decline admission to any new student who is not fully immunized and reserves the right, during outbreaks of illness, to exclude any child who has not been fully immunized from MEMS until the outbreak is contained or eliminated. In such cases, there will be no refund or adjustment of tuition.

MEMS's Policy is based on and intended to be a reflection of the best practices with respect to the immunization of school-age children, as recommended by Illinois law, the CDC, and other reputable health care sources. This means that, in some cases, MEMS's requirements may, but not necessarily, exceed state standards, or that MEMS may add immunizations required for "full immunization," in consultation with MEMS's physicians and legal advisers.

MEMS will maintain appropriate documentation of all student immunizations and waivers.

If you have any additional questions regarding this Policy, please feel free to contact us at (618) 931-2508.