

EXCERPTS FROM PA CODE RELATED TO SCHOOL DENTAL HEALTH
PA Code, Title 28 HEALTH AND SAFETY
CHAPTER 23 SCHOOL HEALTH

§ 23.1. Required health services.

School districts and joint school boards shall provide the following health services for children of school age who are attending or who should attend an elementary, grade or high school, either public or private, and children who are attending a kindergarten which is an integral part of a local school district:

- (1) Medical examinations.
- (2) Dental examinations.
- (3) Vision screening tests.
- (4) Hearing screening tests.
- (5) Threshold screening tests.
- (6) Height and weight measurements.
- (7) Maintenance of medical and dental records.
- (8) Tuberculosis tests.
- (9) Special examinations.

§ 23.3. Dental examinations.

(a) Dental examinations shall be required on original entry into school and in grades three and seven. In instances where there are kindergartens in some schools of a district and not in others, the board or joint board may decide whether medical and dental examinations shall begin in the first grade or in the kindergarten.

(b) Children transferred from other school systems shall be examined as soon as possible after the transfer regardless of their age or grade if an adequate dental record is not made available by the original school.

(c) Dental examinations shall be conducted with sufficient care and detail to command dental respect and to provide an educational experience for the child and his parents. Examinations shall be scheduled so that an average of no more than eight children are examined in an hour.

(d) The school dental examination may be conducted by the family dentist and reported to the school on forms supplied by the school. Administrators are urged to have as many children examined privately as possible to provide for continuity in the dental care of the child. Payment for these examinations shall be the responsibility of the parent; however, children examined privately shall be counted as part of the enrollment for reimbursement purposes as provided in § 23.24 (relating to maximum reimbursement for dental services).

§ 23.8. Maintenance of medical and dental records.

(a) School districts and joint school boards shall maintain comprehensive medical and dental records of each individual child.

(b) The records shall contain all the information the school obtains concerning the health of the child.

§ 23.11. Special examinations.

Children who appear to the school teacher, nurse, physician, dentist or dental hygienist to deviate from their normal growth and development pattern shall be reported to the parents or guardians who shall be requested to have the children examined by their family physician or family dentist. The results of these examinations shall be reported to the school. If the children are not examined within a reasonable length of time and their growth and development pattern continues to deviate from normal, the nurse, school physician, school dentist or dental hygienist shall arrange special school examinations for these children.

Authority

The provisions of this § 23.11 issued under sections 2102(g) and 2111(b) of The Administrative Code of 1929 (71 P. S. § § 532(g) and 541(b)); section 1402(a) and (f) of the Public School Code of 1949 (24 P. S. § 14-1402(a) and (f)); and section 6 of the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955 (35 P. S. § 521.16).

Source

The provisions of this § 23.11 adopted June 11, 1982, effective September 1, 1982, 12 Pa.B. 1819.

§ 23.33. School dentists.

(a) *Qualifications.* A school dentist shall be a doctor of dental surgery or dental medicine legally qualified to practice dentistry in this Commonwealth.

(b) *Employment.* School districts alone or with other districts or joint school boards shall employ school dentists and shall compensate them on a basis agreed upon by the school dentist and the employing district or joint school board. Compensation may not be less than \$6 per hour.

Appointments shall be approved by the Department of Health. School districts shall submit to the regional dental officer the names of school dentists for approval by the Department of Health.

(c) *Duties.* School dentists shall perform the required dental examinations. They shall also examine children referred to them by the administrator, teacher, dental hygienist, nurse or physician because of suspected dental disease. They shall also perform other duties as may be required by the board which are not inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the Department of Health.

§ 23.35. Dental hygienists.

(a) *Qualifications.* A dental hygienist shall be licensed by the State Dental Council and Examining Board and be certified as a school dental hygienist by the Department of Education.

(b) *Employment.* Dental hygienists shall be employed by a school district or joint school board.

(c) *Duties.* The duties of a dental hygienist shall be those exclusively performed in connection with school dental health activities and to include those preventive services as recommended by the Department of Health.

Cross References

This section cited in 49 Pa. Code § 33.205b (relating to practice as a public health dental hygiene practitioner).

§ 23.45. Objections to examination on religious grounds.

(a) School children or school employes may be excused from regular or special medical or dental examinations on presentation of written evidence to the school administrator that the examinations are contrary to the religious beliefs of the parent or guardian of the child or of the employe.

(b) Exemption from medical or dental examinations will not be granted if the Department of Health finds that facts exist under which the exemption constitutes a present substantial menace to the health of other persons exposed to contact with the unexamined person.