

School Entrance Requirements

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Physical Examination

“No pupil shall be admitted for the first time to any public kindergarten or elementary school in a school division unless such pupil shall furnish, prior to admission.... A comprehensive physical examination... within 12 months prior to the date such pupil first enters such public kindergarten or elementary school...”

Code of Virginia § 22.1-270

Which means....

- There is no grace period for obtaining a physical. A student entering VA public school for the first time in Kindergarten or elementary school must have a comprehensive physical before they can enter the building.
- There is no legal requirement for a physical exam for students entering grades 6-12. Some school divisions have established policies requiring a physical for these students. Check your school division policy for guidance.

Exemptions

The *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-270 (D) Allows for parents who object to a physical examination on religious grounds to provide a written letter stating that the child is in good health and free from any communicable or contagious disease.

School Entrance Physical Form

The school entrance physical form and immunization record shall be a standardized form provided by the State Department of Health, which shall be a part of the mandatory permanent student record.

To access the form visit:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Health/home.html>

Preschool Enrollment Requirements

- Preschool children fall into 2 categories: those that are officially enrolled in the school (preschool handicapped and special education) and those that merely rent space from your school division (most Head Start programs).
- There is no document that outlines the responsibilities of the healthcare provider or specifically states the enrollment requirements for preschoolers.

Preschool Enrollment Requirements (cont.)

The preschool specialist at the Department of Education states that all preschool **special education** students must have a physical and age appropriate immunizations in order to attend school. The school nurse should have access to these documents just like she has access to all others in the building. These students will have had a physical exam during the eligibility process.

Preschool Enrollment Requirements (cont.)

All students participating in a preschool program must provide a physical and proof of immunizations, that conform to the Code of Virginia, **upon entering kindergarten**. Regardless of the fact that they may have provided these documents when they entered a preschool program previously.

What to do if a student is homeless?

The person enrolling the student must provide an affidavit stating they are homeless and that the child is in good health and free from any communicable or contagious disease.

The student should be enrolled and should immediately be referred to the school division homeless liaison for assistance in acquiring the necessary school enrollment documentation.

Immunization Requirements

No student shall be admitted by a school unless at the time of admission the student or his parent submits documentary proof of immunization to the admitting official of the school.

If a student does not have documentary proof of immunization, the school shall notify the student or his parent (i) that it has no documentary proof of immunization for the student; (ii) that it may not admit the student without proof.

Code of Virginia § 22.1-271.2

DPT Requirements

A minimum of three or more properly spaced doses of diphtheria toxoid, tetanus and acellular pertussis. One dose shall be administered on or after the fourth birthday.

A booster dose of acellular pertussis shall be administered prior to entry into the sixth grade if at least five years have passed since the last dose of pertussis vaccine.

Polio Requirements

Three or more properly spaced doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV) or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV). One dose shall be administered on or after the fourth birthday. A fourth dose shall be required if the three dose primary series consisted of a combination of OPV and IPV.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Requirements

Two properly spaced doses of live attenuated measles (rubeola) vaccine. The first dose shall be administered at age 12 months or older.
One dose of live attenuated rubella vaccine shall be administered at age 12 months or older.
One dose of live attenuated mumps vaccine shall be administered at age 12 months or older.

Hepatitis B Requirements

A minimum of three properly spaced doses of hepatitis B vaccine (Hep B).
There should be at least one month spacing between the 1st and 2nd doses and four months spacing between the 1st and 3rd doses.

Varicella (Chicken Pox) Requirements

One dose of varicella vaccine shall be administered at age 12 months or older.

Immunization Requirements

For specific immunization requirements, access the Virginia Department of Health website:

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Immunization/requirements.htm>

Click on quick links "Minimum immunization requirements printable (PDF)"

Immunization Exemptions Religious Exemption

No certificate of immunization shall be required for the admission to school of any student if the student or his parent submits an affidavit to the admitting official stating that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student's religious tenets or practices.

Code of Virginia § 22.1-271.2

Immunization Exemptions Religious Exemption

The certificate of religious exemption form may be downloaded from:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Health/home.html>

Medical Exemptions

No certificate of immunization shall be required for the admission to school of any student if the school has written certification from a licensed physician or a local health department that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health, indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization.

Conditional Enrollment

Any student whose immunizations are incomplete may be admitted conditionally if that student provides documentary proof at the time of enrollment of having received at least one dose of the required immunizations accompanied by a schedule for completion of the required doses within 90 calendar days.

Conditional Enrollment

➤ Any student admitted conditionally and who fails to comply with his schedule for completion of the required immunizations shall be excluded from school until his immunizations are resumed.

For further information, contact:

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