

STUDENT CONCUSSIONS AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES

The Board recognizes that concussions and other head injuries are serious and can potentially result in significant brain damage and/or death if not recognized and treated properly. This policy is intended to promote awareness of this issue as well as the safety of students participating in school-sponsored activities that may pose a risk of concussion or other head injuries. This policy also applies to all school-sponsored activities that the Superintendent determines, in consultation with school staff, pose a risk of concussion or other head injury (hereafter referred to as “any other covered activities”).

The Superintendent shall ensure that all training, protocols and forms implemented in the school unit are consistent with materials promulgated by the Maine Department of Education.

A. Staff Training

All school personnel involved in school-sponsored activities shall receive training in the identification and management of concussions and other head injuries.

All identified personnel will receive refresher training whenever the Maine Department of Education recommendations, protocols and/or forms have been revised.

B. Student and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

Students who intend to participate in school-sponsored athletics (and any other covered activities), and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to sign the School Department’s Concussion/Head Injury Acknowledgment Form each year. Students may not participate in athletics (and any other covered activities) until the Acknowledgment Form is returned to the school.

C. Removal of Students from School-Sponsored Activities, Evaluations and Medical Clearance

Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury in any school-sponsored activity must be immediately removed from the activity, practice or game.

A student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury must receive a brain injury evaluation and written medical clearance from a licensed healthcare provider, ideally one trained in concussion management, and operating within the scope of practice such as an MD, DO, Physician’s Assistant or Nurse Practitioner prior to his/her being allowed to resume participation in the activity. Such return to participation will be gradual and at the discretion of the Concussion Management Team and in all cases will be based on the district's current accepted standards of care.

D. Academic and Disability Considerations

Teachers and other school staff must be alerted to possible cognitive and academic issues that a student who has sustained a concussion or other head injury may experience. School staff shall permit adjustments to the academic day and/or expectations, consistent with a medical recommendation from the student’s health care provider.

E. Concussion Management Team

The Superintendent will appoint a Concussion Management Team to be responsible, under the supervision of the Superintendent, to make recommendations related to the implementation of this policy. The Concussion Management Team will include the school nurses, Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer and may include one or more principals or assistant principals, the school physician, and other school personnel or consultants as the Superintendent deems appropriate.

The team shall oversee and implement this policy and related protocols for concussions and other head injuries based on the generally accepted standards of care. This team will identify the school personnel who shall be trained in concussion signs and symptoms and the school activities covered by this policy.

The policy and/or related protocols should be reviewed when generally accepted protocols change.

Legal References: Public Law Chapter 688 (2012)
20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 254(17); 1001(19)

Cross Reference: JJIF-E RSU No. 5 Concussion Information Sheet

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