



PLA Health Policy

The health and safety of our scholars is one of the highest priorities at PLA. As a public charter school, we ensure to follow the regulations on immunizations and health assessments required by the provisions relating to Health Services in the state of Indiana. Under state law, the following regulations apply to all scholars:

- I. Children at any grade, Kindergarten through 12th, must show proof of immunization before they can enroll in school.
- II. Any scholar, in Kindergarten through 12th grade, must have any single dose vaccine upon school entry. In the case of a multi-dose vaccine, a child is required to have at least one dose of each vaccine upon entry. If additional doses are required and medically appropriate within the first 5 days of school, the child shall have either the final dose during that 5-day period, or shall have the next scheduled dose and shall also provide a medical certificate setting out the schedule for the remaining doses. If the child has at least one dose, but needs additional doses that are not medically appropriate during the first 5 days of school, the child may provide a medical certificate on or before the 5th school day scheduling all subsequent doses. The medical certificate shall be signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. A child who meets these requirements may continue to attend school even if the child does not have all the required vaccinations, so long as the child complies with the vaccination schedule in the medical plan/certificate. School administrators or their designees are required to review that medical plan/certificate every 30 days to ensure that the child is in compliance. If the requirements are not met, the school administrator will contact the Parents/Guardians regarding any missing immunizations. These regulations also apply to all additional vaccine requirements for entry into 7th and 12th grades.
- III. A child transferring into the school may be granted a 30-day period to provide complete immunization records.
- IV. Waiver of these regulations is applied under the following specified conditions:
 - a. Homeless status
 - b. If a child is unable to locate records due to a disaster
 - c. If there is a national vaccine shortage
- V. Exemptions from the school laws for immunizations may be granted only for:
 - a. Medical reasons
 - b. Religious beliefs
 - c. Strong moral or ethical convictions similar to a religious belief

Medical exemptions must be submitted in writing and must be signed by the child's physician. Religious or moral exemptions must be submitted in writing and must be signed by a parent/ legal guardian. Immunization records must be delivered to the school prior to acceptance for enrollment.



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Health Screenings

The state of Indiana requires that all scholars have yearly health screenings. These screenings may be completed by a PLA nurse at your local PLA campus, at no cost to the family, or by a health care provider. Health screenings must be sent to PLA and can be completed up to 4 months before the first day of school.

Screenings are not the same as a yearly physical exam, but these can be completed as part of the physical exam and may count as the required yearly screening if your regular health care provider completes all of the following:

Growth Screening – Height, weight, and BMI (Body Mass Index) yearly screening in grades K-12.

Vision Screening – Near and far vision yearly screening in grades K-12. This screening is not a substitute for a complete eye exam by an eye care specialist.

Hearing Screening – Hearing screenings are done in grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7 and 11. This screening is not a substitute for a hearing exam by your healthcare provider.

Scoliosis Screening – This screening is done in grades 6 and 7.

If a PLA school nurse gets screening results that are outside of the Department of Health guidelines, a referral form will be sent to the parents/guardians. Referral forms are to be completed by the family's private health care provider or health care specialist and returned to PLA before the end of the school year.

PLA Administrators will contact the family if a scholar's health screening documentation is not received and approved prior to the first day of school.

Health Exams

The state of Indiana requires that all scholars in specified grades receive a physical and/or dental exam. The exams can be done up to one year before the start of the school year and must be sent to PLA before the end of the school year.

A physical exam is required in Kindergarten or 1st Grade (when your child first starts school), and also in 6th and 11th grades. A physical exam is not the same as a health screening, but health screenings might be done by your health care provider as one part of the physical exam.

Dental exams are required for scholars in Kindergarten or 1st Grade (when your child first starts school) and also in grades 3 and 7.

PLA will notify families of health screenings and/or dental events at one of our campuses through the school via email and through the PLA website.



PLA Health Policy

Medication during PLA Gatherings

The Board recognizes that scholars attending PLA gatherings may require medication for various reasons. Parents/guardians are encouraged to administer medications outside the hours of school gatherings and for families to assume full responsibility for this part of their child's health care.

When attending a school-sponsored event, such as but not limited to onsite campus events or state testing, it is recommended that a Parent/Guardian be present to administer any emergency prescription, or over the counter medication that a child may need during this time. The school shall designate licensed or trained school personnel, as indicated by the applicable Federal and State laws, to administer medication, with use of corresponding medical equipment, if administration is included as part of a Scholar's 504 Plan, IEP, and the school has received the requisite health information and permission from scholar's medical provider and parent/guardian. Additionally, with requisite information and permission on file, a scholar may be permitted to carry and self-administers specific emergency medications, as regulated by the state of Indiana Departments of Health and Education.

If a scholar must self-administer medication during a PLA gathering, Parents/Guardians must notify a staff member or school nurse for school health record documentation. All medication must be transported and received in the original container, with prescription label attached, if applicable.



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Indiana 2020-2021 Required and Recommended School Immunizations

Grade	Required	Recommended	
Pre-K	3 Hepatitis B 4 DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis) 3 Polio	1 Varicella (Chickenpox) 1 MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella) 2 Hepatitis A	Annual influenza
K-5th grade	3 Hepatitis B 5 DTaP 4 Polio	2 Varicella 2 MMR 2 Hepatitis A	Annual influenza
6th-11th grade	3 Hepatitis B 5 DTaP 4 Polio 2 Varicella	2 MMR 2 Hepatitis A 1 MCV4 (Meningococcal) 1 Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis)	Annual influenza 2/3 HPV (Human papillomavirus)
12th grade	3 Hepatitis B 5 DTaP 4 Polio 2 Varicella	2 MMR 2 Hepatitis A 2 MCV4 1 Tdap	Annual influenza 2/3 HPV 2 MenB (Meningococcal)

HepB: The minimum age for the 3rd dose of Hepatitis B is 24 weeks of age.

DTaP: 4 doses of DTaP/DTP/DT are acceptable if 4th dose was administered on or after child's 4th birthday.

Polio*: 3 doses of Polio are acceptable for all grade levels if the 3rd dose was given on or after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose.

*For students in grades K-10, the final dose must be administered on or after the 4th birthday and be administered at least 6 months after the previous dose.

Varicella: Physician documentation of disease history, including month and year, is proof of immunity for children entering preschool through 12th grade. Parent report of disease history is not acceptable.

Tdap: There is no minimum interval from the last Td dose.

MCV4: Individuals who receive dose 1 on or after the 16th birthday only need 1 dose of MCV4.

Hepatitis A: The minimum interval between 1st and 2nd dose is 6 calendar months. 2 doses are required for all grades K-12.

Indiana State Department of Health,
Immunization Division
(800) 701-0704