

SCHOOL HEALTH INFORMATION

MANDATED SCREENINGS

To help you keep your child healthy and ready to learn, the Erie School District offers health screenings conducted by the certified school nurses every year. These screenings include **vision** for each student, **hearing** for students in grades K-3, 7 and 11, and **scoliosis** for students in grades 6 and 7. These screenings identify problems, which may interfere with learning.

All children enrolled in Pennsylvania schools will have their height and weight measured, and then used to calculate their body mass index (BMI). BMI is a screening tool used to determine whether a child is overweight or underweight.

Your child's BMI is based on the ratio of height to weight. BMI is reported as a percentile ranking based on the child's age and gender. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) created the percentile ranges to identify children who may be at risk for specific health problems. Children with high BMI are at increased risk for serious health conditions such as insulin resistance (a precursor to diabetes) and heart disease.

Like all screening tools, BMI can produce some false positives or negatives. For example, a student may have an artificially high BMI due to a high level of lean body tissue or muscle, as may be found in a well-conditioned athlete. That's why it's so important to follow up with your doctor if your child's BMI is high or low.

Your child's BMI is strictly confidential and will not be discussed with anyone other than you and your child. Please share your child's BMI information with your child's health care provider. Your doctor or nurse is in the best position to evaluate your child's overall health.

Feel free call your child's school nurse with any questions you have about the Growth Screening Program.

REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS

Physical examinations are required by state law for all students in **Grades K, 6 and 11**. Parents may have the exam done by their own doctor if they do not want it done in school. A special form to be signed by your private physician was mailed to your home last June. If for any reason you do not have the form, you can get one from the school office in the summer or the school nurse in the fall. The form must be submitted to school by October 15th **OR** your child will be scheduled for the school exam.

Dental examinations are also required by state law for all students in **Grades K, 3 and 7**. Parents may also have this exam done by their own dentist. Please refer to the above paragraph regarding forms and dates.

any over-the-counter medications, vitamins, minerals, herbals and dietary supplements. all medications are given through the health room in your child's school. District staff may not administer any medication - prescription or over-the-counter - to your child without a written order from a physician or other primary health care provider. Parents and students are required to abide by the District's "Administration of Medication to Students in School Policy," available for review within the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct given to students at the start of every school year and also at the Student Health Service Department in the Service Center (16th and Cranberry Street). Students who have a medical need to self administer medication during the school day (asthma inhalers/EpiPens) must be able to demonstrate their ability to self-administer this medication and also abide by the District's self-administration of medication procedures, also available for review in the locations ea(pt)-2(m)-2(i 4(v)-o