



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
School Nurse Supervisors

**FROM:** Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** November 2, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Health-Related Legislative Changes for School Year 2007-08

The purpose of this memo is to provide additional information and guidance to schools regarding 2007 legislative changes that impact school health services. Below you will find an overview of each public act that makes these changes, a brief explanation of implications for schools and a link to the full legislative language.

**Public Act 07-58, *An Act Concerning Health Assessments For Adolescents***

This public act changes the timing of the required school health assessments from grade 10 or 11 to **grade 9 or 10**. This change is effective **July 1, 2008**. Since local school districts must choose which grade they will require students to have their adolescent health assessment, it is recommended that each district review its district policy and make any necessary changes for the upcoming school year. This is especially important for school districts that currently require the health assessment in grade 11. Under this new public act, grade 11 is omitted from the statute starting in July 2008. This act does not impact the health assessment requirement prior to school entry nor the requirement in grade 6 or 7. The full text can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/ACT/PA/2007PA-00058-R00SB-00260-PA.htm>

**Public Act 07-241, *An Act Concerning Minor Changes to the Education Statutes***

Section 3 of this public act amends Section 10-212a of the Connecticut General Statutes and will allow for directors of school readiness programs or before or after school programs that are exempt from licensure by the Department of Public Health, i.e., programs owned and operated by local boards of education or local municipalities, or a director's designee, to administer medications to a child enrolled in such programs in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Education. These regulations will be developed in the next few months. Until such regulations are adopted, directors of school readiness or before or after school programs, or their designees, may not administer medications. The full text can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/ACT/PA/2007PA-00241-R00HB-07347-PA.htm>.

**Public Act 07-252, *An Act Concerning Revisions to Statutes Relating to the Departments of Public Health and Social Services and Town Clerks***

Section 36 of this public act amends Section 10-212a of the Connecticut General Statutes to add optometrists to the list of providers who can provide written authorization for the administration of medications in schools. This change is effective July 1, 2007. The authorized prescribers include physicians licensed to practice medicine, a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine, an optometrist licensed to practice optometry, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant. The full text can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/ACT/PA/2007PA-00252-R00HB-07163-PA.htm>

**Public Act 07-04 of the June Special Session, *An Act Implementing the Provisions of the Budget Concerning General Government***

Section 119 of this public act calls for each local and regional board of education to require each student to report annually whether the student has health insurance. Schools can collect this information in whatever format is easiest for them. One suggestion is to incorporate this information on the student's annual emergency contact form. Once this information is collected, each local and regional board of education must provide information about the HUSKY program (the state health insurance program) to the parent or guardian of each student identified as uninsured. The public act also states that the Department of Social Services (DSS) must provide HUSKY program information to each local and regional board of education. The State Department of Education is working with DSS to develop a simple form that can be distributed to all families regarding HUSKY, which includes the application process and enrollment information. More detailed information will follow. The full text can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/ACT/PA/2007PA-00004-R00SB-01500SS1-PA.htm>

For further information or questions, please contact Cheryl Resha, Ed.D., R.N. at [cheryl.resha@ct.gov](mailto:cheryl.resha@ct.gov) or 860-807-2108.

MKM:cr

cc: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner  
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