



GENERAL

The health and safety of our students is of major importance to us all. At the time of enrollment, parent/guardians must submit required health forms to the office (immunization records, annual health forms) prior to the start of school. Following state laws students with incomplete health records will not be allowed into class.

Students enrolling in a Florida school for the first time must present proof of a physical exam done within 12 months prior to entry. A Tuberculosis Clinical Screening with appropriate follow-up, if needed, must also be done within 12 months of entry. Students transferring from within the state or within the county are not required to be re-examined.

All immunizations are to be kept up to date or your child will not be permitted to attend school. Parents should also ensure that their children come to school equipped to deal with the weather.

SICK CHILD POLICY

Teachers cannot provide care for a sick child when this place the health of other children at risk.

If a child is found to be ill upon arrival, the Parents will be asked to take their child home. If a child becomes ill while in our care, the Office will notify the Parents so that they can make arrangements to pick up their child as soon as possible.

If the Parents are not reachable, the Office will contact one of the student's emergency contact persons to pick up the child. Parents should be asked to pick up a child who has:

- Fever with behavior changes or signs or symptoms of illness: an oral temperature over 101° F or under the armpit (axillary) temperature over 100° F.
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Note: In case of fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting, the child should not return to school until 24 hours have passed since the last sign of the symptom.
- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Headache or stiff neck
- Severe itching or rashes
- Mouth sores
- Significant tiredness, irritability or crying
- Difficulty breathing, chronic coughing or wheezing
- Any contagious condition including ringworm, bedbugs, head lice or pink eye Unusual nasal discharge
- Constant pain in the stomach
- Behavior that seems slow, confused or disoriented

The symptoms listed above may or may not be associated with a communicable illness, but without the consultation from a health care professional it is impossible to determine the nature of the illness. Therefore, when Parents pick up their child they should be reminded of their responsibility for arranging any further evaluation or assessment of the child's healthcare needs.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- Parents are required to notify the teacher within 24 hours if their child or a member of the immediate household is diagnosed with a common communicable disease (such as cold, lice, flu etc).
- The teacher will notify all parents within 24 hours if a communicable disease has been reported in their child's class.
- Parents are required to notify the teacher immediately of any life-threatening diseases their child may have been exposed to.
- Parents will be requested to bring a note from a doctor or health care professional stating that the child may return to school and is no longer contagious.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Children are not permitted to carry any medication, oral or otherwise and school personnel are not permitted to administer medication to students. Specific exceptions, such as Epi-pens in the case of severe allergies, can be made by the Principal with the written permission of a parent. A parent must submit a signed Medication Authorization Form. All emergency prescription medication to be dispensed must be in the original container with the name of the student, medication, doctor and the times to be administered and will be kept in the Administrative Office.

DOCTOR'S AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

A doctor's note is required for a child to return to school after three days of absence due to illness, or under any of the following circumstances:

- If your child had a fever of 101 degrees or more during the previous 24 hours
- Before any medication will be given including over the counter drugs
- For a child returning to school after an illness requiring a prescription medication. The note must indicate that the child is not contagious and may return to school.
- For a child who has been sent home with diarrhea/vomiting and wishes to return to school the next day
- For a child returning to school after a communicable disease such as chicken pox, strep throat or bronchitis

Note: Even when children have a doctor's note, they must still be physically able to participate in a group setting in order to return to school. The final decision to readmit a student rests with the Principal.

ILLNESS OR INJURY

Any type of illness or injury that occurs at school is to be reported to the parents. Injury may be treated with a band aid/alcohol swab in the office and the teacher will report it to the parents using School System. For injuries requiring additional treatment such as ice or bandages, or illnesses such as vomiting, fever or pinkeye, the child will be sent to the office and parents will be notified in a timely manner.

If the illness/injury is serious and the parent does not respond, then the person listed as an emergency contact will be called. If no one can be reached the child's physician will be called. If necessary, 911 will be called.

It is critical that Parents immediately report any change in address, telephone number, doctor or emergency contact to School Administration.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

The parents are requested to complete an emergency contact form each year for each child. This information must be updated immediately with any change in address, telephone number, doctor or emergency contact so as to ensure that contact can be made in the event of illness, accident, injury, incident, or emergency dismissal of school.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

The parents should make every effort to schedule medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. If it is necessary to schedule an appointment during school hours, parents are requested to advise the office the day before the appointment of the time the students will need to be released.

NUTRITION

In accordance with the Broward County Ordinances, parents/guardians and Child Care Providers are urged to work cooperatively to assure that children are provided with nutritious snacks and meals.

Parents should send their child with a nutritious mid-morning snack and a lunch. Healthy snacking is an important part of a healthy diet. When chosen properly, snacks provide children with an extra boost of energy and important nutrients needed to support a well-balanced diet.

As part of STEMS' commitment to promoting a healthy nutritional environment at school we would like to share with you these healthy snack tips:

- Snacks should be kid-sized. Neither children nor adults need large portions.
- Snacks should be colorful. Kids eat with their eyes. Make snacks visually appealing.
- Snacks should be nutritious. Offer fruits and vegetables as often as you can.
- Drinks should be served in small portions, about ½ cup each. Water is a healthy choice.
- Dairy products require an ice pack. Dairy products that remain in a child's lunch box all day, without refrigeration, may not be safe to eat.

Families are always looking for ways to ensure their child receive just the right balance of nutrients and calories. You can help your child learn healthy snacking habits by:

- Providing healthy snacks for social activities,
- Being a good role model for nutrition

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The laws of the State of Florida require certain persons such as teachers, child-care workers, health workers, child counselors and administrator to report known or suspected cases of child abuse.

Ch. 415 of the Florida Statutes, protects any child, disabled, or aged adult from abuse and neglect, section 415.504 provides for a central abuse registry (1-800-96 ABUSE) in the Department of Children and Families to receive reports of abuse and neglect. Anyone who knows or suspects and fails to report a child's abuse or knowingly prevents someone from reporting, or makes a false report is guilty of a second-degree misdemeanor.

IMMUNIZATION

Florida State Law requires that all children enrolling in any public, private, or parochial school must show evidence of immunization to communicable disease, i.e. measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, mumps, rubella, and polio. Parents are required to present evidence that the student's immunization requirements have been satisfied on the first day of school as follows:

- form DH680 (for immunization) or form DH680-Part B (waiver of immunization)
- form DH3040 (for health examinations)

In addition to compliance with all other immunization requirements, children entering, attending, or transferring to the seventh grade in Florida schools must complete the following one tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap).

Emergency **PROCEDURES**



EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

STEMS follows the Broward County Public Schools with respect to the closing of schools due to inclement weather or other emergency. If there is a specific threat, then an independent decision will be made. Please stay tuned to your local radio and TV for this information. Parents are required to pick up their children promptly if a closing is made. Days lost due to weather or emergency closings may be made up before the end of the school year.

EMERGENCY DRILLS (Fire/Tornado/Lockdown)

Emergency drill procedures are posted in the school to identify safe areas within the school and also explaining the method of exiting the building. Regular safety drills are carried out throughout the school year so as to familiarize students with these procedures. Teachers will escort students to the designated safe areas/zones.

ELECTRICAL OUTAGE

If the electricity goes out, students must remain in the classroom. Students and parents will be informed in the event that the school needs to be closed due to prolonged outage.