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<b>Policies</b>	

## **STUDENT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Students who are afflicted with a communicable contagious, and/or infectious disease or who are infected with communicable parasites and who are liable to transmit such a disease or parasite may be excluded from school attendance.

The board recognizes the need and right of all children to receive free and appropriate education. The board further recognizes its responsibility to provide a healthy environment for all students and school employees.

A determination of whether an infected student be excluded from the classroom or school activities shall be made on a case-by-case basis, under the direction of the building principal or the principal's designee.

In situations where the decision requires additional expertise and knowledge, the building administrator will refer the case to an advisory committee for assistance in determining the proper course of action.

The advisory committee will include the following:

1. the building principal or designee
2. the school or Public Health Nurse
3. the superintendent or designee

The advisory committee, at the option of the above named people, may also include any or all of the following:

1. a representative from the State Health Department
2. the student's personal physician
3. the student's parents or guardian
4. appropriate teachers or other school personnel
5. other medical personnel as may be deemed necessary
6. a school board representative

In making the determination, the advisory committee shall consider:

1. the behavior, developmental level, and medical condition of the student;
2. the expected type(s) of interaction with others in the school setting;
3. the impact on both the infected student and others in that setting,
4. the South Dakota Department of Health guidelines and policies; and
5. the recommendation of the County Health Officer, which may be controlling.

The advisory committee may officially request assistance from the State Department of Health.

If the prognosis indicates an absence of 30 days or more, the Board of Education will be the final authority in determining whether or not the student will be permitted to attend classes and/or participate in school activities or whether arrangements will be made to provide an alternate educational program. If that requires personal contact between student and school employees, only trained volunteer employees shall be utilized.

Public information will not be revealed about the student who may be infected. If the student is permitted to remain in the school setting, the following procedures will be followed by the building principal:

Information will be provided, as appropriate, to school employees who have regular contact with the student, as to the student's medical condition and other factors needed for consideration in carrying out job responsibilities.

Health guidelines for school attendance are established and interpreted within the context of the case. The guidelines are not inclusive but are available to be used as a resource. School personnel will refer to school health professionals for specific judgments in interpreting the guidelines.

Staff members assigned to work with students suspected of being infected with a communicable disease, or those having a confirmed infection, will be given instruction in the appropriate handling and working with suspected or infected students, recommended personal hygiene measures will be observed and practiced in order to create and maintain a healthy environment.

Legal References:     **SDCL 13-28-7.3**

Adopted:            1/1/2007 ASBSD

Revised/Reviewed:   **11/13/17**