

COMMONWEALTH CHARTER ACADEMY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY SERIES 3:00 LEARNERS

3:80 IMMUNIZATIONS

§ 1. Purpose and Authority

The Board of Trustees (Board) of Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA) recognizes the need to ensure that learners are immunized against various communicable diseases which can be life-threatening and interrupt learning.

The CEO, in consultation with a certified school nurse, shall report immunization data to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) as required by law.

The Board directs the CEO or designee to develop the administrative guidelines or regulations required to implement this policy.

§ 2. Definitions

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms used in this policy shall have the following meanings:

Certificate of Immunization – The official form furnished by DOH. The certificate is filled out by the parent/guardian or health care provider and signed by the health care provider, public health official, or school nurse or a designee. The certificate is given to the school as proof of full immunization. The school maintains the certificate as the official school immunization record or stores the details of the record in a computer database.

Full immunization – The completion of the requisite number of dosages of the specific antigens at recommended time and age intervals.

Medical Certificate – The official form furnished by DOH setting out the immunization plan for a learner who is not fully immunized, filled out and signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, or by a public health official when the immunization is provided by DOH or a local health department, and given to a school as proof that the learner is scheduled to complete the required immunizations.

§ 3. Guidelines

CCA shall notify parents/guardians of the requirements for immunization and the requisite proof of immunization necessary for school attendance.

A learner's parent/guardian shall provide CCA with proof of immunization as required by DOH regulations.

A learner who has not been immunized in accordance with DOH regulations shall not be permitted to attend CCA unless a statement of exemption is provided, an exception applies, a temporary waiver applies, or the CEO or designee has provisionally admitted the learner.

A school nurse shall be responsible for monitoring immunization requirements.

Immunization Requirements

DOH regulations relating to immunization set forth the requisite number of dosages of the specific antigens and age intervals.

For attendance in all grades, learners shall have the following immunizations: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; poliomyelitis; measles, mumps, and rubella; hepatitis B; and varicella (chickenpox).

For attendance in seventh grade, learners shall have the following additional immunizations: one (1) dose of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap) and one (1) dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV).

For attendance in twelfth grade, learners shall have one (1) dose of MCV, if the learner has not received a previous dose of MCV on or after the learner's sixteenth birthday.

Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

A learner shall be exempt from immunization requirements if:

1. A physician provides a written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the learner.
2. A parent/guardian objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief.

Provisional Admittance

A learner may be provisionally admitted to CCA if the learner has received at least one dose of each age-appropriate vaccine as specified in DOH regulations.

A school nurse shall notify the learner's parent/guardian of the requirements to complete the remaining doses and provide a medical certificate.

Exceptions

A learner who is experiencing homelessness who has not been immunized or who is unable to provide immunization records on the first day of attendance due to being homeless shall be

admitted in accordance with the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.

A learner in foster care or a learner transferring into CCA who is unable to provide immunization records on the first day of attendance shall be admitted and shall have thirty (30) days to provide proof of immunization, a medical certificate detailing the plan to complete a multiple dose vaccine series, or to satisfy the requirements for an exemption.

Temporary Waiver

DOH may issue a temporary waiver in the event of a nationwide shortage of supply for a particular vaccine or a disaster impacting the ability of children transferring into a school to provide immunization records.

Certificate of Immunization

CCA shall maintain a certificate of immunization as part of the health record for each learner as required by the DOH regulations.

§ 4. Distribution of Policy

The CEO or designee shall publish information about this policy and guidelines in CCA's Learner Handbook and post the policy on CCA's publicly accessible website.

History:	Adopted 10-14-21
Previous Policy No.:	None
Legal Ref.:	24 P.S. § 13-1303 24 P.S. § 17-1749-A 28 Pa. Code § 23.81 et seq. 28 Pa. Code §§ 27.71 – 27.75
Cross Ref.:	3:00 Admission and Enrollment of Learners 3:70 Examinations and Health Screenings