



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

JOHN HELLERSTEDT, M.D.  
COMMISSIONER

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July 19, 2016

RE: Provisional Enrollment

Dear Superintendent, Administrator, and School Health Staff:

As the upcoming school year approaches, please be reminded of the following information regarding the Texas minimum vaccine requirements for school entry. Immunizations are an important way to ensure the health and well-being of your students, their families, and your community.

In accordance with Texas Attorney General Opinion No. GA-0178, only the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) may adopt rules relating to provisional admission based upon a child's immunization status and may be found in Title 25, Sections 97.61-97.72 of the Texas Administrative Code. Students must meet the immunization requirements specified for the grade in which they are enrolling in order to attend classes, with the exception of those students that have filed a valid conscientious or medical exemption with the school. However, certain students may qualify for provisional enrollment under the following conditions. Please note that this information is a summary of 25 TAC §97.66, which was recently revised along with the other rules in the subchapter. The rule revisions will take effect on July 28, 2016.

- Students in progress:
  - A child or student may be enrolled provisionally if the child or student has an immunization record that indicates the child or student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine required by this rule. To remain enrolled, the child or student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the child-care facility or school. If a child or student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the child or student is not in compliance and the facility shall exclude the child or student from attendance until the required dose is administered.
- Homeless students and students in foster care:
  - A child or student who is homeless or who is a "child in foster care" shall be admitted temporarily for 30 days if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available. The facility shall promptly refer the student to an appropriate health provider to obtain the required vaccinations.

There are additional allowances for student transferring from one Texas school to another and transfer students that are dependents of active duty military personnel, per 25 TAC §97.69. For additional information, please contact the DSHS Immunization Branch at (800) 252-9152.

Sincerely,

Margaret Horton  
School Compliance Coordinator  
Immunization Branch

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