

## **Chapter 6: Early Childhood Programs: Role and Responsibility of the School Nurse and Resources**

### **Chapter Contents:**

**Nebraska Department of Education Rule (NDE) 11 - Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants**  
**Immunization Requirements for Students ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider.**  
**School Nurse Responsibility for this population of students.**

**Nebraska Department of Education Rule 11 - Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants** – This document can be found at [https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Rule11\\_2015.pdf](https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Rule11_2015.pdf)

Contained in NDE Rule11 are the following:

General Provisions

Definitions

Prekindergarten Program Approval

Requirements of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Services Units

Program and Staff Requirements for Prekindergarten Programs Serving Children Birth to Kindergarten Eligibility Age in a Center-Based Program

Program and Staff Requirements for Prekindergarten Programs Serving Children Birth to Kindergarten Eligibility Age in a Home-Based Program

Early Childhood Education Grants

Violations, Probation, Denial, or Loss of Program Approval and/or Loss of Grants

Appendix A – Early Childhood Program Report

Appendix B – Application for New or Expansion Grants

Appendix C – Required Information for Continuation Grants

**Immunization Requirements for Students ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider for the 2019-2020 school year.**

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Immunization/Documents/School%20Summary%20RR%20English.pdf>

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age

**Medical exemption** is allowed if the student’s parent/guardian provides the school with a statement signed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner stating that, in the health care provider’s opinion, the specified immunizations(s) required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student’s family or household.

**Religious exemption** is allowed if the student’s parent/guardian provides the school with a notarized affidavit signed by the student or, if he or she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student, stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member of that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

**Provisional enrollment** in a school in Nebraska is allowed if the student has begun the immunizations against the specified diseases prior to enrollment and continues the necessary immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible. This includes immunization against polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, and rubella and varicella if the student has had at least one dose of DTaP/DTP/DT/Td, one does of hepatitis B, one dose of either trivalent OPV or one dose of IPV, either one dose of the

combined measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine or one dose of each vaccine for measles, mumps, rubella and one dose of varicella vaccine.

Continuation of necessary immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible must be documented by a written statement from the student's immunization provider which shows the scheduled dates to complete the required immunization series. Failure to receive the necessary immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible will result in exclusion of the student from attending school until either documentation of immunization or a medical state or religious affidavit is provided to the school. The time interval for the completion of required immunization series must not exceed nine months.

### **School Nurse Responsibility for this population of students.**

School nurses working with the population of preschool students is responsible to encourage healthy environments and practices in the preschool setting. This can include:

- Good hand washing,
- Dental hygiene,
- Cough and sneeze etiquette,
- Encouraging preschool students to try new foods,
- Encouraging physical activity,
- Monitoring for safety hazards and taking appropriate action,
- Basics of first aid to help the student participate in first aid cares after an injury.

School health screenings are required for:

- Height and Weight,
- Near and Far Vision,
- Hearing and
- Dental health.

### **Resources:**

- Healthy Lifestyle Children's health – Preschoolers; Mayo Clinic (2019)  
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/childrens-health/basics/preschoolers/hlv-20049425>
- Good Nutrition For Preschoolers; WebMD (2019)  
<https://www.webmd.com/parenting/features/serve-up-good-nutrition-for-preschool-children#1>

- Preschool Growth & Development – Preschool; healthychildren.org  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/preschool/Pages/default.aspx>
- Children and the Preschool Assessment – verywell family; (2018)  
<https://www.verywellfamily.com/preschool-assessment-2764976>
- What Every child Needs for Good Mental Health; Mental Health America (2019)  
<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/every-child-needs>
- Preschool Safety in the Classroom – Preschool Professor (2019) <http://www.the-preschool-professor.com/preschool-safety.html>
- Oral Health Promotion Among Preschool Children with Special Needs – NIH (2015) <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03522337>
- Warning Signs of vision Problems in Infants & children – healthychildren.org (2016) <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/eyes/Pages/Warning-Signs-of-Vision-Problems-in-Children.aspx>
- Hearing Screening for Preschoolers: conditioned Play Audiometry – healthychildren.org (2016) <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/ear-nose-throat/Pages/Hearing-Screening-for-Preschoolers-Conditioned-Play-Audiometry.aspx>
- Lead Screening – healthychildren.org (2017)  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Where-We-Stand-Lead-Screening.aspx>
- Screening & treating Kids for High Blood Pressure: AAP Report Explained (2017)  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/heart/Pages/High-Blood-Pressure-in-Children.aspx>