

SUBJECT: SCREENING OF NEW SCHOOL ENTRANTS

The Board of Education shall provide for the screening of every new entrant to school to determine which students may have disabilities, may be gifted or may be of limited English proficiency. Such diagnostic screening shall be conducted:

- a) By persons appropriately trained or qualified;
- b) In the student's native language if the language of the home is other than English;
- c) In the case of new entrants, prior to the school year, if possible, but no later than December 1 of the school year of entry or within fifteen (15) days of transfer of a student into a New York State public school should the entry take place after December 1 of the school year;
- d) In the case of students who score below the state reference point on New York State assessment tests, within thirty (30) days of the availability of the test scores.

Such screening shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) A physical examination by a physician/nurse practitioner or submission of a health certificate in accordance with Sections 901, 903, and 904 of the Education Law, including proof of immunization as required by Section 2164 of the Public Health Law;
- b) An assessment of motor development, of receptive and expressive language development, articulation skills, and cognitive ability in the student's native language, if the language of the home is not English.

If such screening indicates a possible disability, a referral shall be made to the Committee on Special Education (CSE) no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after completion of such diagnostic screening.

If such screening indicates a possibly gifted child, the name and finding shall be reported to the Superintendent of Schools and to the parents/guardians no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after completion of such screening.

If such screening indicates a child identified as possibly being of limited English proficiency, such child shall be referred for further evaluation in accordance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to determine eligibility for appropriate transitional bilingual or free-standing ESL programs.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: SCREENING OF NEW SCHOOL ENTRANTS (Cont'd.)**Reporting to Parents**

Parents/guardians of children to be screened shall receive information in advance regarding the purpose of screening, the areas to be screened and the referral process. The information shall be communicated either orally or in writing in the parents' primary language(s). This information will be provided during the registration interview.

Parents/guardians have the right to request information regarding their child's performance during screening. They shall have access to the screening results and obtain copies upon request.

Confidentiality of Information

The Board of Education's policy and administrative regulations in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 shall apply to all information collected about a child through the screening program. In accordance with the policy and regulations, parents shall be informed of their right to privacy, their right to access to the records and their right to challenge those records should they be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise inappropriate.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974
20 United States Code (USC) Section 1232(g)
Education Law Sections 901, 903, 904, 914 and
3208(5)
Public Health Law Section 2164
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations
(NYCRR) Parts 117 and 154