

State College Area School District

POLICY NO. 203.1

SECTIONS: 1-3-18

TITLE: **Communicable/Infectious
Diseases**

Policy Guides

ADOPTED: 8/31/1998

REVISED: 9/10/2007

Guides	Policy 203.1	Reference
<p>Background</p> <p>I. Objectives</p> <p>II. Provisions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">203.1. Communicable/Infectious Diseases</p> <p>The Board of School Directors is committed to operating all programs in conformity with the highest standards of health <i>in order to provide a safe and secure environment for all students and employees. The Board also strives to maintain a balance between the need to educate all eligible students, to protect students' and employees' rights, and to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases.</i></p> <p><i>The objectives of this policy are to acknowledge the need to address communicable diseases (including bloodborne pathogens) in the schools, to require principles and procedures to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases, and to require compliance with the established guidelines with reporting and confidentiality requirements.</i></p> <p>A. Definitions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Communicable Disease – an illness that is capable of being spread to a susceptible host through the direct or indirect transmission of an infectious agent or its toxic product by an infected person, animal or arthropod, or through the inanimate environment.</i> <i>2. Bloodborne Pathogen – a pathogenic microorganism that is present in human blood, including but not limited to the Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV).</i> <i>3. Universal Precautions – Universal precautions is the practice of treating all human blood and body fluids as if they are known to be infectious due to bloodborne pathogens.</i> <p><i>Communicable diseases range from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature (such as measles, chicken pox, etc.), to chronic, life-threatening diseases such as HBV and HIV. The State College Area School District shall rely on the advice of the public health and medical communities to assess the risk of transmission of various communicable</i></p>	

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III. Policy	<p><i>diseases and determine how best to protect the health of both students and employees. In addition, the District will comply with state and federal laws regarding privacy, disease reporting, and student attendance.</i></p> <p>B. Authority</p> <p>This policy shall apply to all students and employees in all programs conducted by the State College Area School District.</p> <p>C. The universal precautions defined by OSHA shall be used any time a school employee must deal with any body substance. The precautions for State College Area School District are presented in HS-74 (Appendix A).</p> <p>A. It is the policy of the State College Area School Board to safeguard the welfare of students and employees while maintaining the operations of the District in an effective and efficient manner.</p> <p><i>The District shall establish principles and procedures to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. reduce the likelihood of exposure to communicable diseases and bloodborne pathogens in the school setting;</i> <i>2. promote safe work practices and a healthy school environment;</i> <i>3. provide appropriate instruction to students and employees concerning the prevention of exposure to communicable diseases; and</i> <i>4. inform and advise the State College school community about procedures for dealing with communicable diseases.</i> <p>B. Case-by-Case Basis – Under certain circumstances, students or employees with communicable diseases may pose a threat to the health and safety of other students and staff. Decisions regarding the educational/employment status of students or employees with communicable diseases will be made by the Superintendent or designee on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy and applicable law. Decisions concerning student/employee attendance or participation in activities will involve input from public health personnel, the student’s/employee’s physician, parent/guardian (if applicable) and appropriate school personnel. Students and employees may be required to submit to a medical examination and may be excluded from school and school-related functions pending the Superintendent’s decision.</p> <p><i>Nothing in this policy is intended to grant or confer any school attendance or education rights beyond those existing by law. An alternative educational program will be available to a student</i></p>	

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	<p><i>whose removal pursuant to this policy is expected to result in a prolonged absence from school or where otherwise required by law.</i></p> <p><i>C. Confidentiality – The identity of a student or employee who has a communicable disease will be kept confidential and will be revealed only in accordance with applicable law.</i></p> <p><i>D. Notification – Employees and parent/guardians or student suffering from a communicable disease or condition are expected to inform their principal or school nurse so that appropriate accommodations may be made and appropriate precautions may be taken.</i></p> <p><i>E. Infection Control – Employees shall treat all bodily fluids as hazardous and shall follow universal precautions for any exposure to bodily fluids. In order to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, administrative procedures for necessary health and safety precautions will be distributed by the Administration of and followed by all District employees. Those procedures shall include the District’s bloodborne pathogens exposure control plan that contains specific work practice controls related to the handling, disposal and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials. Students should not be involved in the handling, disposal or cleanup of potentially infectious materials.</i></p>	
IV. Resources	The guidelines of the United States Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, advisories of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and consulting medical specialists may be used as a reference in the implementation of this policy.	
V. Administrative Responsibility	It is the responsibility of the Administration in the State College Area School District to implement and enforce this policy, and to develop Administrative Procedures for implementation of enforcement where necessary.	
VI. Communication	<p>This policy shall be communicated to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District Employees 2. Student, Parents/Guardians 3. The State College Community 	
VII. Evaluation	The director of learning enrichment and student services and the director of personnel shall periodically report to the superintendent regarding the effectiveness of this policy and make recommendation for the revision in response to developments in medical research and treatment.	