

CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

Category: Priority/Required by Law

Related Policies: EBBB

The Mason School District is committed to ensuring the safety of students while at school and when participating in any school-sponsored events. The Board is aware that head injuries, including concussions, can happen to any student, not just an athlete, and that the risk of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or other head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

This policy applies to all students of the District who experience or are suspected to have experienced a concussion or other traumatic brain injury, whether in school or out.

Provisions relating to all Students Who have Experienced a Concussion or Traumatic Brain Injury.

1. **Definitions:** For purposes of this policy, the terms below will have the ascribed meanings.

"Head injury" means injuries to the scalp, skull, or brain caused by trauma, and shall include a concussion which is the most common type of sports-related brain injury.

"Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise statutorily authorized by the state to provide medical treatment (physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, licensed physician's assistant, or dentist).
2. **Duty to Report.** All District employees shall report any accident or incident which involves a student head injury. The report should be filed in the same manner provided under Board policy EBBB as for that of any accident requiring first aid. Additionally, Teachers should report to the school nurse (or administrator in charge if the nurse is unavailable) if the student appears to have any difficulty with academic tasks that the teacher believes may be related to concussion. The school nurse will notify the student's parents or guardians and treating health care provider.
3. **Return to Learning Protocols.** After a student has suffered a concussion, whether in school or not, before full resumption of academic work, the building principal or his/her designee will work with the school nurse, a student's parent/guardian, medical provider, teacher(s) and other appropriate district staff, to establish a graduated learning reentry plan. The plan will support the student's full return to academic activities, and ease the stress of making up past work while engaged in present work. The plan must include:
 - Step-by-step instructions and details for students, parents/guardians and school personnel;
 - Time frames for physical and cognitive rest within first few days post-injury and throughout the recovery as needed;

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- Guidance on graduated return to extracurricular athletic activities and classroom studies, including classroom accommodations or modifications;
- Frequency of assessments by the school nurse, school physician if applicable, neuropsychologist or athletic trainer until full return to the classroom and extracurricular athletic activities are authorized;
- Any provisions relative to “return-to-play” for student-athletes;
- A plan for communication and coordination among school personnel and with the parents/caregivers and the student’s medical provider.

Section 504 or other such accommodations or modifications when appropriate will be developed in accordance with applicable law and Board policies.

4. Concussion Awareness and Education. To the extent possible, the District will implement concussion awareness and education into physical education and/or health education curriculum.

District Policy History:

First reading: August 14, 2017

Second reading/adopted: September 18, 2017

District revision history:

September 18, 2023

Legal References:

RSA 200:49, Head Injury Policies for Student Sports

RSA 200:50, Removal of Student-Athlete

RSA 205:51, School Districts; Limitation of Liability

RSA 200:52, Definitions

RSA 200:63, Head Injuries; Return to Learning and Plan

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*