

Approved: January 05, 1989

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY 1511

GILMER COUNTY SCHOOLS

TITLE: COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL POLICY

The Gilmer County School System will work cooperatively with the Gilmer County Health Department to enforce and adhere to the West Virginia Codes: 18A-5—1, 16—3—4a, 16—3—5, 16—3C—1 thru 16—3C--9, 18—2—5, 18—5—9, 18—5—22, and 18—5—34 for prevention, control and containment of communicable disease in schools. Decisions related to student or employee attendance will be based on P.L. 94-142 and Federal 504 Regulations.

1. Students are expected to be in compliance with the required immunization schedule. The building principal is required under State Statute 16—3-4 to exclude children from school attendance who are out of compliance with the immunizations required by this act. School personnel will cooperate with county/state health personnel in completing and coordinating all immunization data, waivers and exclusions.
2. The teacher shall exclude from the school any pupil or pupils known to have or suspected of having any infectious disease or infestation known to be spread by casual contact. The superintendent has the authority to exclude a staff member from school when reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms him/her of having a communicable disease or infestation that is known to be spread by any form of casual contact and is considered a health threat to the school population. Such a student or staff member shall be excluded unless their physician approves school attendance and the condition is no longer considered contagious. All reportable communicable diseases will be referred to the Gilmer County Health Department.
3. When reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms that a student/staff member is known to have a communicable disease or infection that is known not to be spread by casual contacts i.e., HIV Infections, Hepatitis B and other like diseases, the decision as to whether the affected person will remain in the school setting will be addressed on a case by case basis by a review panel to ensure due process. (Protocol and review panel membership outlined in Appendix A.)
4. If a decision is made to exclude a child from school who is HIV positive or has AIDS, final approval of this decision must be made by the WV Department of Health (16—3C—6).
5. Mandatory screening for communicable diseases that are known not to be spread by casual contact is not warranted as a condition for school entry or for employment or continued employment, nor is it legal based on 16-3 C—1.

*CASUAL CONTACT - Refers to day-to-day interaction between HIV-infected individuals and others in the home, at school or in the work place. It does not include intimate contact, such as sexual or drug use interactions, and it implies closer contact than chance passing on a Street or sharing a subway car. -

This definition is from the book. AIDS: A GUIDE FOR SURVIVAL, published by The Harris County Medical Society and the Houston Academy of Medicine, 1987, and provided by the West Virginia State Medical Association.

6. Irrespective of the disease presence, routine procedures shall be used and adequate sanitation facilities will be available for handling blood or body fluids within the school setting or school busses. School personnel will be trained in the proper procedures for handling blood and body fluids and these procedures will be strictly adhered to by all school personnel. (See Appendix B, Routine Procedures for Sanitation and Hygiene-Handling Body Fluids.)
7. All person's privileged with any medical information that pertains to students or staff members shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions and documents as confidential Information. Before any medical information is shared with anyone in the school setting a "Need to Know" review shall be made which includes the parent/guardian, student if over 18, employee or their representative as outlined in the West Virginia Procedures for the Collection, Maintenance and Disclosure of Student Data and Family Educations' Rights and Privacy Act 1988.
8. Instruction on the principle modes by which communicable diseases, including, but not limited to, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are spread and the best methods for the restriction and prevention of these diseases shall be taught to students and in-service education provided to all staff members as specified in 15-5-15d.