

House Bill No. 127

An act relating to immunizations; amending s. 1002.23, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to include parental information regarding school entry requirements and recommended immunization schedules in the guidelines for a parent guide; requiring departmental guidelines regarding student health and other resources; specifying that each school district develop and disseminate a parent guide that provides certain health information, including a recommended immunization schedule and information regarding meningococcal disease; amending s. 1002.42, F.S.; requiring the governing authority of each private school to provide certain health information, including a recommended immunization schedule and information regarding meningococcal disease; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (2) and (7) of section 1002.23, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.23 Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act.—

(2) To facilitate meaningful parent and family involvement, the Department of Education shall develop guidelines for a parent guide to successful student achievement which describes what parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how they can help their child to succeed in school. The guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to:

(a) Parental information regarding:

1. Requirements for their child to be promoted to the next grade, as provided for in s. 1008.25;
2. Progress of their child toward achieving state and district expectations for academic proficiency;
3. Assessment results, including report cards and progress reports; ~~and~~
4. Qualifications of their child's teachers; and
5. School entry requirements, including required immunizations and the recommended immunization schedule;

(b) Services available for parents and their children, such as family literacy services; mentoring, tutorial, and other academic reinforcement programs; college planning, academic advisement, and student counseling services; and after-school programs;

(c) Opportunities for parental participation, such as parenting classes, adult education, school advisory councils, and school volunteer programs;

(d) Opportunities for parents to learn about rigorous academic programs that may be available for their child, such as honors programs, dual enrollment, advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, International General Certificate of Secondary Education (pre-AICE), Advanced International Certificate of Education, Florida Virtual High School courses, and accelerated access to postsecondary education;

(e) Educational choices, as provided for in s. 1002.20(6), and corporate income tax credit scholarships, as provided for in s. 220.187;

(f) Classroom and test accommodations available for students with disabilities; ~~and~~

(g) School board rules, policies, and procedures for student promotion and retention, academic standards, student assessment, courses of study, instructional materials, and contact information for school and district offices; ~~and~~

(h) Resources for information on student health and other available resources for parents.

(7) Each school district shall develop and disseminate a parent guide to successful student achievement, consistent with the guidelines of the Department of Education, which addresses what parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how parents can help their child to succeed in school. The guide must:

(a) Be understandable to students and parents;

(b) Be distributed to all parents, students, and school personnel at the beginning of each school year;

(c) Be discussed at the beginning of each school year in meetings of students, parents, and teachers; ~~and~~

(d) Include information concerning services, opportunities, choices, academic standards, and student assessment; ~~and~~

(e) Provide information on the importance of student health and available immunizations and vaccinations, including, but not limited to:

1. A recommended immunization schedule in accordance with United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations.

2. Detailed information regarding the causes, symptoms, and transmission of meningococcal disease and the availability, effectiveness, known contraindications, and appropriate age for the administration of any required or recommended vaccine against meningococcal disease, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The parent guide may be included as a part of the code of student conduct that is required in s. 1006.07(2).

Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.42 Private schools.—

(6) IMMUNIZATIONS.—The governing authority of each private school shall:

(a) Require students to present a certification of immunization in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.22(3)-(11).

(b) Provide information on the importance of student health and available immunizations and vaccinations, including, but not limited to:

1. A recommended immunization schedule in accordance with United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations.

2. Detailed information regarding the causes, symptoms, and transmission of meningococcal disease and the availability, effectiveness, known contraindications, and appropriate age for the administration of any required or recommended vaccine against meningococcal disease, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

Approved by the Governor June 20, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 20, 2006.