

Grand Rapids Public Schools will work with the Kent County Health Department to adhere to the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978 as amended), and will comply with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to prevent, control, and contain communicable diseases in schools.

Students are expected to comply with required immunization schedules. The building Principal is required, under Part 92, Act 368 of the Public Acts of 1978, to exclude children from school attendance who are out of compliance with the immunizations required by this Act.

Grand Rapids Public Schools will exclude a student from school who is suspected of having a communicable disease or infection and is considered a health threat to the school population as defined by Michigan Public Health R325.9010 and as described in the rules accompanying this policy. A communicable disease is one that is spread from one person to another through a variety of ways that include: contact with blood and bodily fluids, breathing in an airborne virus, or by being bitten by an insect.

A decision to close schools due to communicable disease outbreaks shall be made by the Superintendent, in consultation with the Kent County Health Department medical staff and/or with the review team.

The Superintendent or designee shall comply with all laws, State executive orders, Michigan Department of Education rules or regulations, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services guidelines, and any reporting requirements.

A student who has been diagnosed with or is suspected of having a communicable and/or chronic infectious disease has all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and the District's policies.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> A student with a contagious disease is probably a "handicapped individual" under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794(a)). See *Thomas v Atascadero Unified School District*, 662 F. Supp.376 (C.D. Cal 1986) (a child with Aids was a "handicapped person" under Section 504).

Students with contagious diseases may also qualify for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20. U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*)

Decisions to place a student in a class outside regular classes due to infectious disease must be based on medical evaluations indicating a need to protect the health and safety of others. *Community High School District 155 v Denz*, 463 N.E.2<sup>nd</sup> 998 (2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. 1984).

## Section 8000 – Students

8510 Communicable Diseases - Students

8510-2

Approved: June 29, 2009

Updated: April 15, 2019

Updated: August 3, 2020

LEGAL REF: MCL 333.5111; 333.5131; 20 USCA § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974), MDE Bulletin, September 23, 1999

---

Cases involving contagious diseases are highly fact-specific. Generally, the appropriate treatment of a student depends on the severity of the disease and the risk of infecting others, but in all cases, legal counsel should be consulted.