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SUBJECT: Management of Concussions and Other Head Injuries	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY:	None
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	2018
CANCELS POLICY CODE:	None
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JURISDICTION:	RSU 73 Schools

POLICY: MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIONS AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES

The Board recognizes that concussions and other head injuries are potentially serious and may result in significant brain damage and/or death if not recognized and managed properly. The Board adopts this policy to promote the safety of students participating in school activities, including but not limited to athletic activities and interscholastic sports.

TRAINING

By June 30 of each year, the Athletic Director will identify the school-sponsored athletic activities that pose a risk of concussion or other head injury. A list of these activities will be distributed to school administrators and coaches.

School personnel identified by the Concussion Policy Management Team must undergo training in the identification and management of concussive and other head injuries prior to assuming their coaching responsibilities. The training must be consistent with such protocols as may be identified or developed by the Maine Department of Education (DOE) and include instruction in the use of such forms as the DOE may develop or require.

Coaches shall be required to undergo refresher training based on the recommendations of the DOE and/or when protocols and/or forms have been revised.

STUDENT AND PARENT INFORMATION

Annually, at the beginning of each school year, students and parents of students who will be participating in school-sponsored athletic activities will be provided information regarding the following:

- A. The risk of concussion and other head injuries and the dangers associated with continuing to participate when a concussion or other head injury is suspected;
- B. The signs and symptoms of concussion and other head injuries; and

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- C. The school unit's protocols for 1) removal from the activity when a student is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury, 2) evaluation, and 3) return to participation in student activities.

The student participating in sports and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign a statement acknowledging that they have received and read this information before the student will be allowed to participate in any school- sponsored athletic activity.

MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIVE AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES

It is the responsibility of the staff members involved in school activities and trained in the signs and symptoms related to concussion or other head injury to act in accordance with this policy when the staff member recognizes that a student may be exhibiting such signs/symptoms of concussion or other head injury.

A student having sustained a head injury is prohibited from further participation in any school activities until he/she is evaluated for concussion. If a concussion is suspected, the student must be removed from school activities. The student and his/her parents(s)/guardian(s) will be informed of the need for an evaluation for brain injury before the student is allowed to return to full participation in school activities including learning.

No student is permitted to return to the activity or to participate in any other school activity on the day of the suspected concussion.

If a concussion is confirmed, the student is not permitted to return to full participation in any school activities until medically cleared to do so by a licensed health care provider trained in concussion management. More than one evaluation by the student's health care provider may be necessary before the student is cleared for full participation.

Coaches and other school personnel shall comply with the student's treating health care provider trained in concussion management's recommendations regarding gradual return to participation.

If at any time during the return to full participation the student exhibits signs or symptoms of concussion, the student must be removed from the activity and re-evaluated by the treating licensed health care provider trained in concussion management.

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COGNITIVE CONSIDERATIONS

School personnel should be alert to cognitive and academic issues that may be experienced by students who have suffered a concussion or other head injury, including but not limited to, difficulty with concentration, organization, long-and-short term memory and sensitivity to bright lights and sounds. School personnel shall accommodate a gradual return to full participation in activities as appropriate, based on the recommendations of the student's concussion trained health care provider and appropriate designated school personnel (e.g., 504 Coordinator).

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Superintendent will appoint a Concussion Policy Management Team including a school administrator to be responsible, under the administrative supervision of the Superintendent, to make recommendations related to implementation of this policy. The Concussion Policy Management Team will include the Athletic Director and school nurse and may include one or more principals or assistant principals, the school physician and such other school personnel or consultants as the Superintendent deems appropriate.

The policy and/or related protocols should be reviewed when generally accepted protocols change.

Adopted: June 27, 2013