

**SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIONS AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES**

Date of Original Policy: June 27, 2013

Date of Next Review: 2018

Cancels Policy Code: None

Revision Date: April 2021

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 further acknowledges that a student may suffer a concussion during any activity during the school day or outside of school. The Board adopts this policy to promote the safety of all students, regardless of where or when the head injury occurred, in our schools, PreK - grade 12.

**TRAINING**

Prior to the beginning of each sports season, athletics-related personnel (including volunteers) identified by the District's Concussion Management Team (CMT) must be made aware of this school policy and protocols related to the management of concussive injuries and participate in concussion awareness training that includes recognizing signs and symptoms that may suggest a concussive or other head injury and include instruction in the use of graduated school reentry protocols. This training will be consistent with protocols as identified and developed by Maine Department of Education (DOE).

At the beginning of each school year, teachers and educational technicians will be made aware of this school policy and protocols related to the management of concussive injuries and participate in concussion awareness training that includes recognizing signs and symptoms that may suggest a concussive or other head injury. This training will be consistent with protocols identified or developed by the DOE.

**STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

Prior to participating in any school athletic activity, all students will be provided information including:

1. 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;
2. The signs, symptoms and behaviors associated with concussion and other head injuries; and
3. The RSU 73 protocols for:
  - a. Removal from the activity when a student is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury,
  - b. Evaluation,
  - c. Medical clearance, and
  - d. Graduated school reentry protocols.

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

**MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIVE AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES**

It is the responsibility of all school personnel trained in the signs, symptoms and behaviors related to concussion or other head injury, to act in accordance with this policy when that person recognizes that a student may be exhibiting such signs, symptoms and behaviors.

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- Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury during school or a school athletic activity must be removed from the activity immediately and evaluated by a qualified school personnel.
- Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury is prohibited from further participation in any school activities until they are evaluated by the school nurse or other school personnel trained in such evaluation, such as an athletic trainer who is able to determine if referral to a licensed health care provider is necessary.
- The student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed of the referral to a licensed health care provider for a medical evaluation for possible concussion or brain injury before the student is allowed to begin the graduated school reentry and / or graduated return to play protocol, and then full participation in learning, recess, physical education, and any school activities.
- 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 referral to a licensed health care provider is necessary, the student will require written medical clearance from a licensed health care provider qualified and trained in concussion management. The student is also required to complete the graduated return to school protocol.
- School personnel should be alert to cognitive and academic issues that may be experienced by a student who has 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 graduated school reentry protocol for return to full participation in all academic activities as appropriate, based on the recommendation of the student's healthcare provider and appropriate designated school personnel (e.g., 504 coordinator, school nurse).
- No student is permitted to return to full participation in extra-curricular school activities until fully returned to their academic program.
- If at any time during the gradual return to school process the student exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors of concussion, the student must be removed from the activity for that day and follow the graduated school reentry protocol.

**MEDICAL CLEARANCE**

Once a referral to a healthcare provider has been made by the school nurse, athletic trainer, or other health services personnel, the student must receive written clearance from a healthcare provider who is licensed to diagnose a concussion and who is trained in the treatment and management of concussions. The medical clearance allows a student to begin the graduated school reentry protocol.

**CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT TEAM**

The Superintendent will appoint a Concussion Management Team (CMT) including a school administrator to be responsible, under the supervision of the Superintendent, to make recommendations related to implementation and review of this policy. The Concussion Management Team will include the Athletic Director and school nurse and may also include one or more principals or assistant principals, the school physician, and such other school personnel or consultants as the Superintendent deems necessary. The team shall oversee and implement this policy related and related protocols for concussive head injuries based on the currently accepted best practices. The team, under the direction of the Superintendent, shall identify school personnel who shall be trained in concussion signs and symptoms and the school activities covered by this policy.

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**DATA**

The Board recognizes how serious concussions are and the need for improved understanding of concussions in our schools and their impact on learning and school attendance. The school administrative unit will track the number of concussions, activity associated with the injury, number of school days missed, and other information determined necessary by the Concussion Management Team. The CMT will review this data and make recommendations to the Board as needed.

***Adopted: June 27, 2013***

***Revised: April 2021***