## ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

## <u>STUDENTS</u>

Administration Responsibilities: When a student's positive HIV antibody status, or formal diagnosis of ARC or AIDS, is reported to school officials by the parents, legal guardian or the student's physician on behalf of the parent or legal guardian, the superintendent of schools will:

Notify the State Department of Education of the student's health status within 48 hours;

Request medical records from the parent or legal guardian and the student's physician;

Gather information regarding the student's cumulative school record; and

Meet with the evaluation team designated by the State Department of Education.

State Evaluation Team: The State Department of Education, with the cooperation of the State Department of Health and Environment, will convene an evaluation team within ten (10) days following notification to evaluate the student's health status relative to attending school. A student with HIV or a diagnosis of ARC or AIDS will be allowed to attend school and participate in activities available to other students unless the state evaluation team determines that the student's medical condition warrants an alternative education plan.

Appropriate Alternative Education Programs: If the state evaluation team, on a case-by-case basis finds that a student is medically unable to attend school, a local evaluation team consisting of the superintendent, chairman of the Board of Education (or their designees), the student's physician, a local health official, and the student's parent/guardian will determine within five (5) days an appropriate alternative educational program for the student.

Confidentiality: If the state evaluating team determines that school attendance for the student is appropriate, the superintendent will notify in person, the chairman of the Board of Education, the student's principal, the student's teachers and the school nurse (if appropriate), of the HIV status of the student, Identity of a child affected by HIV will be kept among as few individuals as possible.

Under no circumstances will the Board of Education utilize mandatory testing of students or employees of HIV. If a non-attendance determination is made, the identity of the student will be made known only to the local evaluation team.

These persons are to maintain strict confidentiality of this information and will not be permitted to relay this information anyone. It is a violation of both state and federal law to make unauthorized disclosure of such information in the student's records.

## **PERSONNEL**

When it becomes known to the local education agency that an employee has tested positive for HIV or has been diagnosed with ARC or AIDS, an evaluation team, on a case-by-case basis, will be convened within five (5) days to determine employment status. This team will consist of the superintendent, a public health official, the chairman of the board (or designee), a

representative of the State Department of Education, the employee, and the employee's physician (if requested by the employee). The employee's attorney may be present on request from the employee provided the LEA is given a 24-hour notice in order that the LEA's attorney may be present.

The team will review the employee's medical records to determine if, by reason of the disease, the employee is medically capable of performing his or her responsibilities or constitutes a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

## STUDENTS AND PERSONNEL

Liability and Non-discrimination: Decision on participation in activities which may be medically hazardous to persons with AIDS will be made on a case-by-case basis by the evaluation team which was used to determine the placement of the student or the employment status of the LEA employee.

Safety: When a student with AIDS is known to have been exposed to a contagious disease, the parents of the student will be notified immediately by the principal. An employee with AIDS who is known to have been exposed to a contagious disease will be notified by the superintendent.

All employees will be required to participate each year in in-service time for the purpose of emphasizing accident prevention.

The principal will ensure that an accident report is filed for all accidents. The report will include the person's name, date of the accident, an explanation of the accident, and care used in treating the individual. These reports will be kept on file in the principal's office for a minimum of one year.

Curriculum: The superintendent will be responsible for developing instructional objectives to address each terminal objective in the state AIDS curriculum framework and provide each teacher responsible for teaching AIDS education with these objectives. The state AIDS curriculum and related instructional objectives will be utilized in grades K-12.

Education and Universal Precautions: AIDS education, including Universal Precaution inservice, will be required of all school personnel, and may include members of the Board of Education.

A program on AIDS education will be conducted each year for parents and other interested community members. Public health and State Department of Education personnel will be utilized.

Communications and Public Relations: Annually, the Board of Education will designate an individual who will be responsible for all communication on AIDS. This individual will be responsible for keeping the public informed of all training of personnel on AIDS, public meetings for AIDS education, and precautions being implemented in the schools. The person responsible for communications will also make all civic organizations aware of all local persons available to conduct AIDS educating meetings.

Under no circumstances will information identifying an employee or student with AIDS be released to the public.

SOURCE: Tennessee School Boards Association, Nashville, Tennessee

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