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Kolva, Patti

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From: Amanda Custer <acuster@rockwoodschoools.org>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 11:53 AM
To: Findley, Cynthia
Subject: Proposed amendment to Chapter 23

2016 APR 22 AM 11:34

Cynthia Findley,

As a PA Certified School Nurse I absolutely agree that all children should be fully immunized to attend school. However, with these proposed changes trying to be pushed through for the start of the fall 2016-17 school year I do have some concerns:

- This law would be passed over summer months- school nurses do not work over summer which would require us to come in on our own time without compensation in order to send letters, make phone calls, type up new letters outlining the new regulations with administrator backing for exclusion if students are not in compliance within the first 5 days of school. This may not sound like a lot to a lay person, but I can tell you as a CSN how much work this does entail each year to get parents to comply with what they have to do to turn in immunizations.

- It would be helpful with this law being enacted if HIPAA laws did not pertain to immunization records between schools and physicians this would be very helpful to get records directly from doctor's offices instead of having to go through the parents who don't follow through and then their children will be missing school and usually these are the students who can't afford to miss school. The other option for this would be to REQUIRE all doctor's offices to use the SIIS system to enter any immunizations given so that we can look them up ourselves. Many times the immunizations were already given and we just can't get the parent to turn the paperwork in after multiple attempts.

- I think we would have a lot less students excluded from school if we had an extra school year to get this word out to parents during kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year, in district newsletters, on our websites, extra time for letters to our 6th graders going into 7th next year etc. instead of the first time parents are hearing about this being in the middle of summer right before their children have to start school and then dr offices being overwhelmed with phone calls/appointments that need to be done in a very short amount of time making the school nurses look like we were inept in getting out this information in a time efficient manner when we will only have a very short amount of time when we are notified of this change once it is officially approved.

- I feel like the proposed changes are a good step for PA as we do give too much leeway with the current 8 month provisional period and it drags on too long for school nurses constantly having to contact parents to get things completed until almost the end of the school year. This will be great to have a better timeline to have things completely finished, but I feel that the timing of the law is too close to being summer months to have it go into effect for the 2016-17 school year.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Amanda Custer
Certified School Nurse
Medical ACCESS Coordinator
Rockwood Area School District

"You can't educate a child who isn't healthy, and you can't keep a child healthy who isn't educated." ~Joycelyn Elders

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