

Policy JJIF - MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIONS AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES

The Board of the West Bath School Administrative Unit (WBSAU) recognizes that concussions and other head injuries are potentially serious and could 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 extracurricular athletic activities and interscholastic sports.

TRAINING

Each school year, school personnel (including volunteers) identified by the WBSAU Concussion Policy Management Team 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. The training must be consistent with such protocols as 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.

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 and symptoms of a concussion.

Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury during a school activity must be removed from the activity immediately. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed of the need for an evaluation for brain injury.

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

Any 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 and evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in concussion management.

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.

School personnel shall comply with the student's treating health care provider trained in concussion management written recommendations regarding gradual return to participation. If at any time during the return to full participation in school activities the student exhibits signs and symptoms of concussion, the student must be removed from the activity and be re-evaluated by the treating licensed health care provider trained in concussion management.

COGNITIVE CONSIDERATIONS

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 gradual return to full participation in activities as appropriate, based on the recommendation of the student's concussion trained health care provider and appropriate designated school personnel (e.g., 504 Coordinator).

CONCUSSION POLICY MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Superintendent will appoint a Concussion Policy Management Team including a school administrator to be responsible, the school nurse, and school physician, and may include other school personnel or consultants as the Superintendent deems appropriate.

The team shall oversee and implement this policy and related protocols for concussive head injuries based on the generally accepted protocols. This team will identify the school personnel who shall be trained in concussion signs and symptoms and the school activities covered by this policy.

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

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