

**WINSLOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS
25 MESSALONSKEE AVENUE
WATERVILLE, ME 04901**

MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSION AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES

The Board recognizes that concussions and other head injuries are 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-sponsored activities, including but not limited to extracurricular athletic activities and interscholastic sports.

TRAINING

Appropriate school personnel (including volunteers) must be made aware of school policy and protocols related to the management of concussive injuries and participate in concussion awareness training that includes recognizing signs, symptoms, and behaviors that may suggest a concussive or other head injury. This training must be consistent with protocols as identified or developed by the Maine Department of Education (DOE) and include instruction in the use of reporting forms as required by the DOE.

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

STUDENT AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

At the beginning of each school year or prior to the beginning of each sports season, students intending to participating in school-sponsored athletic activities, and parents/legal guardians of students, will be provided information including:

- 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, symptoms and behaviors associated with concussion and other head injuries; and
- C. The school administrative unit's protocols for 1) removal of the student from the activity when the student is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury, 2) evaluation, and 3: return to full participation including academics.

The student participating in sports and his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must sign a statement acknowledging that they 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 staff members involved in a school-sponsored activity and trained in the signs, symptoms, and behaviors 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 and/or behaviors.

Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury during a school-sponsored activity, including but not limited to participation in interscholastic sports, must be removed from the activity immediately. The student and his/her parent(s)/legal 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 any school-sponsored activity.

No student will be permitted to return to the activity or to participate in any other school-sponsored activity on the day of the suspected concussion.

Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury is prohibited from further participation in any school-sponsored activities until he/she is evaluated and receives written medical clearance to do so from a licensed health care provider qualified and trained in concussion management.

Coaches and other school personnel shall comply with the student's treating health care provider's (trained in concussion management) recommendations regarding gradual return to participation. No student is permitted to return to full participation in any school activities until cleared to do so. More than one evaluation by the student's health care provider may be necessary before the student is cleared for full participation.

If at any time during the return to full participation in any school-sponsored activities the student exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors 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 exhibits signs,
- Sensitivity to bright lights and sounds

School personnel shall accommodate a gradual return to full participation in all academic activities as appropriate, based on the recommendation of the student's concussion trained health care provider and appropriate designated school personnel.

CONCUSSION POLICY ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

The Superintendent will appoint a concussion policy administrative team including a school administrator to be responsible, under the administrative supervision of the Superintendent, to make recommendations related to implementation of this policy. This policy shall be phased in, in accordance with state law. The concussion policy administrative team will include the school nurse and the Athletic Administrator, and may include one or more principals or assistant principals, the school physician and 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 currently accepted promising practices.

The policy and/or protocols must be reviewed when protocols change.

ADOPTED: January 28, 2013

SOURCE: Board Policy