SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES

TITLE: INFECTIOUS DISEASES

ADOPTED: May 27, 2003

REVISED:

Replaces former policy no. 6170 AND 203.1	314.1. INFECTIOUS DISEASE
1. Purpose	The Board is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for its students and employees. The purpose of this policy shall be to safeguard the health and well-being of students and employees while protecting the rights of the individual. This policy is based on current evidence that the HIV virus is not normally transmissible by infected individuals within the school setting, except as noted in this policy.
2. Definitions	**HIV** - refers to the disease caused by the HIV or human immunodeficiency virus. **AIDS** - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. **CDC** - United States Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control. Infected students - refers to students diagnosed as having the HIV virus, including those who are asymptomatic.
3. Authority	This policy shall apply to all students in all programs conducted by the school district. The Board directs that the established school rules that relate to illnesses and other diseases among students shall also apply to infected students.
Act 148 of 1990	The Board shall not require routine screening tests for HIV infection in the school setting, nor will such tests be a condition for school attendance.
4. Delegation of Responsibility	The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible as the central contact for handling and releasing all information concerning infected students. All district employees shall strive to maintain a respectful school climate and to prohibit physical or verbal harassment of any individual or group, including infected students.

	All employees shall be required to consistently follow infection control/universal precautions in all settings and at all times, including playgrounds and school buses. Employees shall notify the Superintendent or designee of all incidents of exposure to bodily fluids and when a student's health condition or behavior presents a reasonable risk of transmitting an infection.
5. Guidelines	<u>Attendance</u>
SC 1302	Infected students have the same right to attend school and receive services as any other students and shall be subject to the same policies and rules. HIV infection shall not factor into decisions concerning class assignments, privileges or participation in any school-sponsored activity. School authorities shall determine the educational placement of infected students on a case-by-case basis by following established policies and procedures for students with chronic health problems and students with disabilities. A Screening Team comprised of the Superintendent and/or his/her designee, district physician, school nurse, principal, and including the student's parent or guardian and attending physician shall evaluate the educational placement of an infected student. Placement decisions shall be based on the infected student's behavior, neurological development, physical condition, and expected interaction with others in the school setting, and the criteria proposed by the CDC. First consideration must be given to maintaining the infected student in a regular assignment. Any decision for an alternative placement must be supported by specific facts and data.
SC 1310	An infected student who is unable to attend school, as determined by a medical examination, shall be considered for homebound instruction or an alternative placement.
SC 1329, 1330	An infected student may be excused from school attendance if the parent or guardian seeks such excuse based on the advice of medical or psychological experts treating the student. An infected student's placement shall be reassessed if there is a change in the student's condition or the student's need for accommodations.
	<u>Confidentiality</u>
Act 148 of 1990 Title 28 Sec. 27.2	The Superintendent or designee shall determine which school personnel will receive information about an infected student. The number of individuals informed of an infected student's status shall be kept to the minimum required to assure proper care

	and supervision of the student as well as to protect the school population. Anonymity shall have high priority. All district employees have a duty to preserve the confidentiality of all information concerning an infected student. Serious consequences shall result from a breach of confidentiality by an employee. Information about infected students in the school setting shall not be disclosed to the general public, undesignated school employees or other groups without a court order or the informed, written, signed and dated consent of the infected student or his/her parent or guardian if a legal minor.
SC 1409 Title 28 Sec. 27.2	All health records, notes and other documents referring to a student's HIV status shall be secured and kept confidential. <u>Infection Control</u> Universal precautions, as recommended by the CDC, shall be followed for exposure to bodily fluids. Employees shall treat all body fluids as hazardous and follow universal precautions. The school district shall maintain and keep reasonably accessible all equipment and supplies necessary for infection control. <u>Staff Development</u> All district employees shall participate in a universal precautions education program. Designated district employees shall receive additional, specialized training appropriate to their positions and responsibilities. <u>Prevention Education</u>
Title 22 Sec. 4.29	The goals of HIV prevention education shall be to promote healthy living and discourage the behaviors that put people at risk of acquiring HIV.
Title 22 Sec. 4.4 Pol. 105.1, 105.2 SC 1302 1310 1329 1330 1409	Parents and guardians shall be provided convenient opportunities to preview all HIV prevention curricula and materials.

Title 22 Sec. 4.29 4.4 Title 28 Sec. 27.2 Act 148 of 1990 Pol. 105.1 105.2	 Renumbered 9/12/07