



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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April 21, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

FROM: Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services and Career Readiness

SUBJECT: Student-Athlete Cardiac Assessment Professional Development Module: **Revised**
from March 10, 2015

As a follow-up to previous broadcasts, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the availability of the Student-Athlete Cardiac Assessment professional development module (PD module) required by the *Scholastic Student-Athlete Safety Act (SS-ASA)* (N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7).

The PD module is available at

<http://www.nj.gov/education/students/safety/health/services/athlete/PDModule.shtml>.

Regarding the PD module, the SS-ASA requires that:

- The PD module be accessed and completed by the physician, advanced practice nurse or physician assistant (collectively health care providers (HCPs)) who performs a student-athlete's annual physical examination prior to the student's participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad in grades six through 12 (N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7);
- Upon performing a student athlete's annual physical examination, the HCPs shall sign the certification statement on page four (Clearance Form) of the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (PPE) form attesting to the completion of the PD module. In accordance with the requirements of the law, the board of education of a public school district and the governing board or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school shall retain the original signed statement on the PPE form to attest to the qualification of the HCPs to perform the physical examination; and
- A contract of employment between a school district and a school physician appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1 shall include a statement of assurance that the school physician has completed the PD module, and also read the *Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes* pamphlet (N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1.1).

In addition to the above, upon completion of the PD module, the HCPs will be able to download and print a Certificate of Completion of the PD module. The HCPs should retain the Certificate of Completion for his/her files, but is not required to submit a copy of his/her Certificate of Completion to any public school district or nonpublic school.

Effective with the start of the 2015-2016 school year, HCPs are required to complete the PD module before performing any student-athlete's physical examination. This physical examination must be conducted before a student-athlete can participate on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad, including the first official practice of the season. For those students who have already received a physical examination that is valid and effective for the start of the 2015-2016 school year, it is reasonable for schools to accept the PPE without the HCP's attestation to completion of the PD module during this period of transition.

You are encouraged to provide the attached information to parents, guardians and student-athletes to ensure a thorough understanding of the new requirements, and to ensure to the fullest extent possible, that a student's participation on an athletic team or squad is not unnecessarily delayed because of these new requirements. There is a placeholder highlighted on the bottom of the page for you to include district contact information.

The NJDOE is grateful to, and would like to thank, the New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians, American Heart Association, and New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Cardiology for their partnership and extraordinary efforts in developing the PD module. We are hopeful that the use of this module will help enhance the assessment skills of HCPs who perform student-athlete physical examinations and screenings and prevent the occurrence of sudden cardiac arrest in all student-athletes.

Note: The NJDOE does not have the capacity to provide continuing medical or nursing education credit for completion of the PD module. However, there is nothing that precludes an HCP from consulting with the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Medical Association credentialing division, or any other appropriate entity, regarding the possible receipt of continuing medical or nursing education credit.

Questions and concerns may be directed to schoolhealthservices@doe.state.nj.us.

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Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
David C. Hespe, Commissioner
Senior Staff
Nancy Curry
Diane Shoener
Jessani Gordon
Peter Carfagno
Christene DeWitt-Parker
Greg Kocher
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group

**SCHOLASTIC STUDENT-ATHLETE SAFETY ACT
INFORMATION FACT SHEET
FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

Prior to participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad, each student-athlete in grades six through 12 must present a completed Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (PPE) form to the designated school staff member. Important information regarding the PPE is provided below, and you should feel free to share with your child's medical home health care provider.

1. **The PPE may ONLY be completed by a licensed physician, advanced practice nurse (APN) or physician assistant (PA) that has completed the Student-Athlete Cardiac Assessment professional development module.** It is recommended that you verify that your medical provider has completed this module before scheduling an appointment for a PPE.
2. The required PPE must be conducted within 365 days prior to the first official practice in an athletic season. The PPE form is available in English and Spanish at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/records/athleticphysicalsform.pdf>.
3. The parent/guardian must complete the History Form (page one), and insert the date of the required physical examination at the top of the page.
4. The parent/guardian must complete, The Athlete with Special Needs: Supplemental History Form (page two), if applicable, for a student with a disability that limits major life activities, and insert the date of the required physical examination on the top of the page.
5. The licensed physician, APN or PA, who performs the physical examination must complete the remaining two pages of the PPE, and insert the date of the examination on the Physical Examination Form (page three) and Clearance Form (page four).
6. The licensed physician, APN or PA, must also sign the certification statement on the PPE form attesting to the completion of the professional development module. Each board of education and charter school or nonpublic school governing authority must retain the original signed certification on the PPE form to attest to the qualification of the licensed physician, APN or PA to perform the PPE.
7. The school district must provide written notification to the parent/guardian, signed by the school physician, indicating approval of the student's participation in a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad based upon review of the medical report, or must provide the reason(s) for the disapproval of the student's participation.
8. For student-athletes that had a medical examination completed more than 90 days prior to the first official practice in an athletic season, the Health History Update Questionnaire (HHQ) form must be completed, and signed by the student's parent/guardian. The HHQ must be reviewed by the school nurse and, if applicable, the school's athletic trainer. The HHQ is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/records/HealthHistoryUpdate.pdf>.

For more information, please review the Frequently Asked Questions which are available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/services/athlete/faq.pdf>. You may also direct questions to **[SCHOOL DISTRICT INSERT NAME/CONTACT INFORMATION OF APPROPRIATE STAFF HERE]**.

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