

The following is a brief overview of our healthcare responsibilities:

Delivery of direct care in school, in consultation with local physicians:

- A Registered Nurse is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Our Medical Director, Dr. Martin Lesser, is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Weekly psychiatric consultation for psychotropic medication management and support services is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Cooley Dickinson Hospital & Berkshire Medical Center provide emergency care as well as inpatient services, if necessary.
- Referrals are made to multiple community healthcare providers in specialty areas as necessary.

Healthcare is available early and continuously:

- A pre-enrollment health screening includes: a thorough physical examination, up-to-date immunizations, and the transfer of pertinent medical records before enrollment. This insures the appropriate care of your child during his/her stay with us.
- Health assessment and parent consultation occurs at your child's enrollment. This will give you a chance to inform us of any of your or your child's needs.
- The Health Office responds to frequently encountered health issues (such as colds), care of acutely ill children, and a multidisciplinary team conference occurs weekly. Their information is shared by counselors, the educational staff and nursing to provide your child with a care plan that is tailored to their unique needs.
- We identify students at risk for physical and psychosocial problems, and develop individualized healthcare plans for them. If needed, we coordinate with other healthcare providers and personnel to implement the plans.

Health Education:

- In-service training is provided (med-delegation to non-licensed professionals and Epi-pen training), as well as resource materials, and consultation for school personnel upon request.
- Consultation and recommendations regarding participation in physical education and other school activities/programs is given as appropriate.
- We identify a student's needs for health teaching and provide education for students and parents.

Drug Testing:

- Drug testing is done on campus upon a student's enrollment day and when a student returns from any off-campus visit. Tests will also be administered if staff witnesses any behavior or speech indicative of substance abuse (i.e. slurred speech, difficulty with motor skills). Parents are responsible for the costs of these tests. If the test comes back indicating possible drug use, the same urine specimen is sent to Quest Laboratories for confirmation of the positive result. Your health insurance information will be provided for them for billing purposes. You will be responsible for any co-payment.