

ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

The purpose of this policy is to address issues which arise when either a student or an employee is determined to be infected with AIDS. For purposes of this policy, AIDS includes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, AIDS-related complex, or the presence of VTLV-3 antibody. The Columbia Board of Education recognizes that AIDS is currently a significant medical and social problem. The Board desires to protect the rights of individual students or employees who may be infected with AIDS, as well as protecting non-infected students, staff and public.

1. AIDS Advisory Committee (an Ad Hoc Committee)
The Board of Education will utilize the Lorain County Health Department as a resource for the latest medical developments in dealing with all communicable and transmittable diseases. The school district AIDS Advisory Committee will consist of a member or members of the Lorain County Health Department, the Superintendent, one principal, one board member, one member each from the teaching and support staffs, and, if available, a physician who specializes in communicable and transmittable diseases. One of the functions of this Committee will be to review the literature on AIDS made available from the Lorain County Department of Health and other sources.
2. AIDS Education Program
The Board directs the administration, in concert with the Lorain County Office of Education, to develop a program for educating persons regarding AIDS. This program should provide a plan for making information about AIDS available to students as part of their regular health curriculum. The program should also include inservice information, and, if appropriate, training for teachers, administrators and support staff.
3. AIDS Evaluation Team
The Board of Education believes that AIDS evaluation should be done on an individual basis by the personal physician of the involved student or employee and the Lorain County Department of Health. Recommendations from this evaluation team should be made to the Superintendent regarding, in the case of an employee, the appropriateness of continuing to function in the work place; and, in the case of students, whether instruction should occur in or out of the normal school setting. Home instruction may be recommended based on the need to protect victims from exposure and other illnesses, as well as protection of children from exposure to AIDS.
4. Confidentiality
The Board of Education recognizes the need to protect the individual rights and the health of persons infected with AIDS and the rights and health of those not infected. The Board believes that information concerning the health of any student or employee should be treated as confidential. Unless there is a specific need, other students and employees shall not be informed about an individual's physical condition, including whether or not an individual is infected with AIDS. Appropriate announcements will be released only through the office of the superintendent.

Adopted: December 17, 1986

Columbia Schools, Columbia Station, Ohio