

HOWARD GARDNER MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

	Students/Families	SF17-1003
	HIV Infection	ADOPTED DATE: October 17, 2017 REVIEWED DATE: REVISED DATE: August 18, 2026

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 wellbeing of students and staff while protecting the rights of the individual.

This policy is based on current evidence that HIV Infection is not normally transmissible by infected individuals within the Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School setting, except as noted in this policy.

Definitions

- **AIDS** – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- **HIV Infection** - refers to the disease caused by the HIV or human immunodeficiency virus.
- **Infected students** - refers to students diagnosed as having HIV Infection, including those who are asymptomatic.

Authority

This policy shall apply to students in programs conducted by the Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School.

The Board directs that the established Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School rules relative to illnesses and other diseases among students shall also apply to infected students.

The Board shall not require routine screening tests for HIV Infection in the school setting, nor will such tests be a condition for attendance in at Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School program.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Executive Director or designee shall be responsible for developing and releasing all information concerning HIV Infection and infected students.

All employees shall strive to maintain a respectful classroom climate and to prohibit physical or verbal harassment of any individual or group, including infected students.

Guidelines

SC 1327 Pol. 103

Attendance

Infected students have the same right to attend Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School programs and receive services as other students and shall be subject to the same policies and rules. HIV Infection shall not factor into decisions concerning assignments, privileges or participation in any school-sponsored activity.

Identification and Confidentiality

The identity of students or employees with HIV/AIDS shall be confidential.

All files that include listing of names and other confidential information of those with HIV/AIDS shall be kept under strict security by the CEO.

Placement

First consideration should be given to returning the student or employee to the regular assignment. Any decision for an alternative placement must be supported by specific data.

Students diagnosed as having HIV/AIDS and unable to attend school as determined by medical examination shall be considered for homebound instruction.

A student with HIV/AIDS may be excused from school attendance if the parent or guardian seeks such an excuse based upon medical or psychological advice of those treating the student.

A student may be excused from school attendance by the Board upon satisfactory evidence of urgent reasons which prevent the student from attending school or application to study. Such an excuse must be approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education prior to the exclusion.

Education

The goals of HIV/AIDS prevention education shall be to promote healthy living and discourage the behaviors that put people at risk of acquiring HIV infection. The educational program shall be taught with grade-appropriate material and must include accurate information about reducing the risk of HIV infection. Instruction shall be in accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 4.29.

Educational materials and instruction shall be developed by the CEO and Board. The age group of the students being taught will be taken into consideration when developing such a curriculum. The program of instruction shall include information about the nature of the disease, treatment, cures, methods of transmission, and how infection can be prevented. Programs discussing transmission through sexual activity shall stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of preventing sexual transmission. Programs shall also stress that avoidance of illegal drug use is the only completely reliable means of preventing transmission of disease through shared drug paraphernalia.

A student shall be excused from HIV/AIDS instruction when the instruction conflicts with the religious beliefs or principles of the student or parent or guardian of the student and when excusal is requested in writing. Unless a request is made in writing, the student will be instructed according to Pennsylvania state regulations.

Curricular materials, if practical, shall be made available by the Charter School for home instruction use by a parent or guardian of a student excused from the HIV/AIDS instruction.

Prior to the commencement of HIV/AIDS instruction, the Charter School shall publicize that detailed curriculum outlines and curricular materials used in conjunction with the instruction shall be made available to parents and guardians during normal school hours or at teacher-parent conferences.

The Board shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines to implement this policy. The guidelines of the United States Center for Disease Control shall be the major reference.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENTS.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1301, 1327, 1329, 1330, 1409

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 4.29, 11.25

State Department of Public Welfare Regulations – 55 PA Code Sec. 3270.138

PA Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act – 35 P.S. Sec. 7601 et seq.