In order to minimize the spread of contagious diseases among students and staff, the District will cooperate, fully, with the Kent County Health Department to enforce adherence to the Michigan Health Code for the prevention, control, and containment of communicable diseases.

A decision to close schools due to communicable disease outbreaks shall be made by the Superintendent, or designee, in consultation with the Kent County Health Department medical staff and/or for review to the review team.

A student with or carrying a communicable and/or chronic infectious disease has all rights, privileges, and services provided by law and the District’s policies.1

Approved: June 29, 2009


1 A student with a contagious disease is probably a “handicapped individual” under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794(a). See Thomas v Atascadero Unified School District, 662 F. Supp.376 (C.D. Cal 1986) (a child with Aids was a “handicapped person” under Section 504.

Students with contagious diseases may also qualify for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20. U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.)

Decisions to place a student in a class outside regular classes due to infectious disease must be based on medical evaluations indicating a need to protect the health and safety of others. Community High School District 155 v Denz, 463 N.E.2nd 998 (2nd Dist. 1984).

Cases involving contagious diseases are highly fact-specific. Generally, the appropriate treatment of a student depends on the severity of the disease and the risk of infecting others, but in all cases, legal counsel should be consulted.

Grand Rapids Public Schools