Grand Rapids Public Schools will work with the Kent County Health Department to adhere to the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978 as amended), the School Code of 1976 (Act 451 of 1976 as Amended), and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for the prevention, control, and containment of communicable diseases in schools.

Students are expected to comply with required immunization schedules. The building Principal is required, under Part 92, Act 368 of the Public Acts of 1978, to exclude children from school attendance who are out of compliance with the immunizations required by this Act.

Grand Rapids Public Schools will exclude a student from school who is suspected of having a communicable disease or infection and is considered a health threat to the school population as defined by R325.9010 and as described in the following rules.

A decision to close schools due to communicable disease outbreaks shall be made by the Superintendent, 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
Reviewed and Edited: April 15, 2019
LEGAL REF: MCL 333.5111; 333.5131; 20 USCA § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974), MDE Bulletin, September 23, 1999

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
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Grand Rapids Public Schools