



Newcastle Elementary School District
450 Main St. P.O. Box 1028
Newcastle, CA 95658
(916) 259-2832 Fax (916) 259-2835

Information regarding SB 277 (California Vaccination Bill)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

There has been much discussion surrounding SB 277 (signed by Governor Brown on June 30, 2015) and I wanted to take the opportunity to provide the most current information. Please know that we will be following this bill and any changes or updates as we approach the 2016 school year.

- Starting January 1, 2016, parents or guardians of students in any school or child care facility, whether public or private, will no longer be allowed to submit a personal beliefs exemption (PBE) (this includes religious exemptions) to a currently-required vaccine.
- Whether public or private, all California schools and child care facilities, including child care centers, day nurseries, nursery schools, family day care homes, and development centers, are subject to new and existing laws in California.
- PBEs filed at a school or child care facility before January 1, 2016 will remain valid until the student enrolls in the next grade span, typically at kindergarten or 7th grade. A PBE filed before 2016 at:
 - a child care facility will remain valid until the child first enters the span between transitional kindergarten through 6th grade.
 - entry to any grade between transitional kindergarten through 6th grade will remain valid until the child completes 6th grade.
 - entry to any grade from 7th through 12th will remain valid through 12th grade.
- PBEs may be transferred between schools in California, both within and across school districts.
- Children with a valid PBE filed before 2016 who enter a new grade span will have to meet all age-appropriate immunization requirements for admission into primary or secondary school (K-12th) or be enrolled in an independent study program with no classroom-based instruction or in a home-based private school. In addition, all immunization requirements for age and grade will need to be met before entering 7th grade.
- Students entering transitional kindergarten must meet the same immunization requirements as students entering kindergarten.
- **Personal belief exemptions will be allowed for any new immunization requirement initiated by the California Department of Public Health.**

Please contact me at jmuller@newcastle.k12.ca.us if you have any questions. Thank you!

Jennifer Muller, RN, PHN
School Nurse

Resources:

- For a list of required immunizations, www.shotsforschool.org
- The language of Senate Bill 277 is available at:
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB277