

SB 277

FAQ

The following is a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) guide for all parents and guardians of current and prospective students of Pacific Charter Institute schools regarding the new legal changes surrounding Senate Bill 277 ("SB 277") and required student immunizations.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is SB 277?

Essentially, under SB 277, beginning January 1, 2016, a parent or guardian will no longer have the option of filing a personal beliefs exemptions ("PBE") from the immunization requirements that are currently required for admission into child care of a public or private school in California.

SB 277 will allow personal beliefs exemptions that are on file prior to January 1, 2016, for a pupil who is already attending a California child care or a private or public elementary or secondary school to remain valid until the pupil reaches the next "grade span" (birth to preschool; kindergarten and grades 1-6, including transitional kindergarten; and grades 7-12).

Under SB277, beginning July 1, 2016, students may not be admitted for the first time or advanced to the next "grade span" (birth to preschool; kindergarten and grades 1-6, including transitional kindergarten; and grades 7-12), unless the student has been immunized for his or her age as required under the California Health and Safety Code.

Students enrolled in home-based private schools or in an independent study program and does not receive classroom-based instruction are exempt from the immunization requirements for admission¹.

¹ Students in these categories will still be required to provide immunization records to the School before entry.

Must I vaccinate my child in order to remain enrolled in their current program at my Pacific Charter Institute school?

Beginning on July 1, 2016, a student who is enrolled in the independent study program and does not receive classroom-based instruction at a Pacific Charter Institute learning center is exempt from the immunization requirements for admission. However, it is not clear whether the Legislature intended this to mean that any such student is prohibited from any classroom activities, which may occur at any of our resource centers. The California Department of Public Health is working on regulations that we hope will define

and further clarify the exemption. We will update parents and guardians once we have more information.

If a student has a personal beliefs exemption on file prior to January 1, 2016, they may remain enrolled pursuant to the PBE and participate at the resource centers, without the required immunizations, until entering the next grade span (as applicable to Pacific Charter Institute schools, kindergarten and grades 1-6, including TK; and grades 7-12).

What are the current vaccination requirements in order to enroll my child at a Pacific Charter Institute school?

For kindergarten, see <http://www.shotsforschool.org/k-12/>

For 7th grade, see <http://www.shotsforschool.org/7th-grade/>

For students entering or transferring into California schools at other grade levels, see <http://www.shotsforschool.org/k-12/>

How can my child be exempt from the vaccination requirements?

Students are exempt from the immunization requirements if:

1. The Student is enrolled in a home-based private school; or
2. The Student is enrolled in an independent study program and does not receive classroom-based instruction; or
3. A licensed physician provides a written statement stating that the physical condition of the child is such, or medical circumstances relating to the child are such, that immunization is not considered safe, indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances, including, but not limited to, family medical history, for which the physician does not recommend immunization; or
4. The parent or guardian files, prior to January 1, 2016, a letter or affidavit, which is maintained on file at a private or public elementary or secondary school, child day care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center within the state, stating that the parent or guardian holds beliefs opposed to immunization for his/her child.

These pupils may continue enrollment without the required immunizations until the pupil enrolls in the next "grade-span," as defined above, (as applicable to Pacific Charter Institute schools, Kindergarten (including TK) and grades 1-6; and grades 7-12).

Is my child exempt from immunization requirement because my Pacific Charter Institute school is a non-classroom based charter school?

As state above, the law exempts a student who is enrolled in an independent study program and does not receive classroom based instruction. It is not clear whether the legislature intended this to mean that any such student is prohibited from any classroom

activities, which may occur at any of our resource centers. The California Department of Public Health is working on regulations which we hope will define this further. We will update parents and guardians once we have more information.

For more information about SB 277 and the immunization requirements, please visit the:

California Department of Public Health's website at www.shotsforschool.org; or

Contact your local health department or county office of education.