

STUDENT-ATHLETE CONCUSSIONS

Generally

In order to participate in any extracurricular physical activity, each student-athlete and the student-athlete's parent or guardian must review, on an annual basis, information on concussions provided by the school division. After having reviewed materials describing the short- and long-term health effects of concussions, each student-athlete and the student-athlete's parent or guardian must sign a statement acknowledging receipt of such information, in a manner approved by the Board of Education.

Return to Play Protocol

A student-athlete suspected by that student-athlete's coach, athletic trainer, or team physician of sustaining a concussion or brain injury in a practice or game is removed from the activity at that time. A student-athlete who has been removed from play, evaluated, and suspected to have a concussion or brain injury does not return to play that day or until the student-athlete is

- evaluated by an appropriate licensed health care provider as determined by the Board of Education and
- in receipt of written clearance to return to play from such licensed health care provider.

The licensed health care provider evaluating student-athletes suspected of having a concussion or brain injury may be a volunteer.

Return to Learn Protocol

School personnel are alert to cognitive and academic issues that may be experienced by a student who has suffered a concussion or other head injury, including

- difficulty with concentration, organization, and long-term and short-term memory;
- sensitivity to bright lights and sounds; and
- short-term problems with speech and language, reasoning, planning, and problem solving.

School personnel accommodate the gradual return to full participation in academic activities of a student who has suffered a concussion or other head injury as appropriate, based on the recommendation of the student's licensed health care provider as to the appropriate amount of time that such student needs to be away from the classroom.

Procedures

The superintendent is responsible for developing, and biennially updating, procedures regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes.

Athletic Activities Conducted by Non-School Organizations on School Property

The school division may provide this policy to organizations sponsoring athletic activity for student-athletes on school property. The school division does not enforce compliance with the policy by such organizations.

Adopted: by the Bristol Virginia School Board on September 9, 2019.
Reviewed April 17, 2023.

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-271.5.

Cross Refs.: KG
KGB

Community Use of School Facilities
Public Conduct on School Property