

Directive to Administrators (Specify which administrators)		WAD (Wednesday) Publication Date	WAD Notice Number	No. of Pages
All Staff and Administrators		November 25, 2015		1 of 5
WAD Title (Limit to 4-6 Words)			Date Due (if applicable)	Not Applicable After
Elimination of Personal Beliefs Exemption from Immunizations			December 18, 2015	
From	Title	Signature		Telephone
Kim Coates (Cabinet member or approved by one below)	Executive Director, SFCSD			415-242-2615
Inform				
(x) Certificated Staff (x) Classified Staff (x) Parents (x) Post on Bulletin Board Other <u>As Needed</u>				
Administrative Directive				
WHO:	Students in grades Pre-K through 12 th grade who have a current Personal Belief Exemption.			
WHAT:	<p>Effective in 2016, SB 277 will eliminate personal and religious exemptions from immunization requirements for children in child care and public and private schools. The law will allow personal belief exemptions (PBEs) submitted before January 1, 2016 to remain valid until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a child coming from child care reaches TK/Kindergarten • an existing K-6 student reaches 7th grade. <p>The following exempt categories will not have to meet existing immunization requirements for entry: <input type="checkbox"/> Home-based schools <input type="checkbox"/> Students enrolled in an independent study program who do not receive classroom-based instruction. Also, students currently in grades 7-12 who have a PBE on file prior to 2016 do not need to meet existing immunization requirements to remain in school through 12th grade.</p> <p>For MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS ONLY, <u>a written statement from a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.)</u> is required, which states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the physical condition or medical circumstances of the child are such that the required immunization(s) is not considered safe. • which vaccines are being exempted • the specific nature and probable duration of the condition or circumstances, including but not limited to family medical history, for which the physician does not recommend immunization • the expiration date, if the exemption is temporary 			
HOW:	<p>Parents/Guardians of students with Personal Belief Exemptions or Religious Exemptions should receive letters about the new changes in the law before December 18, 2015 (see attached). Actions needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review list of students with current PBEs that will be sent to you by email • Send home a copy of the attached letter to each of these students by Dec. 18, 2015 <p>Attached: Parent Letter in English, Spanish, and Chinese, and a copy of excerpts from the “Frequently asked Questions re: SB 277” for staff reference. Additional information may be found online at http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/ .</p> <p>For additional information and questions, please contact the Nurse of the Day at 415-242-2615.</p>			

	Cabinet Member Kevin Truitt	Title Associate Superintendent, Student Support Services	Signature
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SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - WEEKLY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE (WAD)



San Francisco Unified School District

School Health Programs, SFUSD

1515 Quintara Street

San Francisco, CA 94116-1273

Tel (415) 242-2615 ■ Fax (415) 242-2618

www.healthiersf.org

November 25, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This notice is to inform you of changes in California law regarding **Personal Belief Exemptions** to required immunizations that will go into effect on January 1, 2016, that may affect your child.

Please read the information below carefully. If you have any questions, call your child's school or the SFUSD Nurse of the Day @ 415-242-2615.

The New Personal Belief Law in California – SB277: What parents need to know

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 belief exemption to a currently-required vaccine.**
- Students are not required to have immunizations for entry if they attend:
 - A home-based school or
 - An independent study program with no classroom-based instruction.

Will personal belief exemptions, including those based on religious belief, filed in California before 2016 remain valid in later years?

Personal belief exemptions filed at a California 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.

For example, a Personal Belief Exemption filed before 2016 at:

- A child care facility will remain valid until the child first enters the span between transitional kindergarten through 6th grade.
- Any grade between transitional kindergarten through 6th grade will remain valid until the child completes 6th grade.
- Any grade from 7th through 12th will remain valid through 12th grade.

Which facilities are affected by the new law in 2016 and future years?

All California schools and child care facilities, whether public or private.

In the new law on immunization requirements, are religious beliefs distinguished from other personal beliefs?

No. No distinction is made between exemptions based on religious beliefs or other personal beliefs.

Is a personal belief exemption still valid if a student transfers between schools in California after 2015?

Yes. A personal belief exemption filed with a California school before January 1, 2016 is valid until entry into the next "grade span." Personal belief exemptions from California may be transferred between schools in California, both within and across school districts.

Information for School Staff - New law (SB277) eliminating Personal Belief Exemptions to Immunizations in California

In 2016, what are the changes to the immunization requirements for children entering child care or school?

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 belief exemption to a currently-required vaccine.
- Students will no longer be required to have immunizations for entry if they attend:
 - ◆ A home-based school or
 - ◆ An independent study program with no classroom-based instruction.

Which facilities are affected by the new law in 2016 and future years?

All California schools and child care facilities, whether public or private, including child care centers, day nurseries, nursery schools, family day care homes, and development centers, are subject to new and existing laws in California.

In the new law on immunization requirements, are religious beliefs distinguished from other personal beliefs?

No distinction is made between exemptions based on religious beliefs and other personal beliefs.

Will personal belief exemptions filed during or after 2016 be valid?

No. Starting in 2016, personal belief exemptions will no longer be an option for the vaccines that are currently required for entry into school or child care in California.

Will personal belief exemptions, including those based on religious beliefs, filed in California before 2016 remain valid in later years?

Personal belief exemptions 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 Personal Belief Exemption (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.
- Any grade between transitional kindergarten through 6th grade will remain valid until the child completes 6th grade.
- Any grade from 7th through 12th will remain valid through 12th grade.

Is a personal belief exemption still valid if a student transfers between schools in California after 2015?

Yes. A personal belief exemption filed with a school in California before January 1, 2016 is valid until entry into the next grade span (i.e., 7th through 12th grade). Personal belief exemptions may be transferred between schools in California, both within and across school districts.

However, **if the personal belief exemption documentation is no longer available**, students must meet immunization requirements or be enrolled in an independent study program with no classroom-based instruction or in a home-based private school. **Only a PBE from California is acceptable.**

Please note: This law does not prohibit a student with an IEP from accessing any special education and related services.



Distrito Escolar Unificado de San Francisco

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25 de Noviembre del 2015

Estimados Padres y Tutores,

Esta carta es para informarles de los cambios en la ley de California sobre las **Exenciones por Creencias Personales** para vacunas obligatorias que entrarán en vigencia el primero de enero del 2016 y que puede afectar a su hijo(a).

Por favor lea detenidamente la siguiente información. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la escuela de su hijo(a) o la enfermera de turno del Distrito Escolar Unificado de San Francisco (SFUSD, por sus siglas en inglés) al teléfono: 1-415-242-2615.

La Nueva Ley por Creencias Personales de California – Proyecto de Ley SB277: Lo que los padres necesitan saber

A partir del primero de enero del 2016:

- **A los padres o tutores de los estudiantes de cualquier escuela o establecimiento para el cuidado infantil, ya sea público o privado, no se les permitirá más presentar una nueva exención por creencias personales para una vacuna actualmente obligatoria.**
- Los estudiantes no están obligados a vacunarse si:
 - Están siendo educados en el hogar, o
 - Asisten a un programa de educación independiente que no está basado en clases en el aula.

¿Permanecerán válidas en los próximos años las exenciones por creencias personales, incluyendo aquellas basadas en creencias religiosas, presentadas en California antes del 2016?

Las exenciones por creencias personales presentadas en una escuela o establecimiento para el cuidado infantil de California antes del primero de enero del 2016 permanecerán válidas hasta que el alumno se matricule en el próximo “ciclo de enseñanza”, generalmente en kindergarten o en el 7° grado.

Por ejemplo, una Exención por Creencias Personales presentada antes del año 2016 en:

- Un establecimiento para el cuidado infantil, permanecerá válida hasta que el alumno ingrese por primera vez al ciclo de enseñanza comprendido entre el kindergarten de transición y el 6° grado.
- Cualquier curso entre el kindergarten de transición y el 6° grado, permanecerá válida hasta que el alumno termine el 6° grado.
- Cualquier curso desde el 7° al 12° grado, permanecerá válida hasta que el alumno termine el 12° grado.

¿Qué establecimientos se ven afectados por la nueva ley en los años 2016 y posteriores?

Todas las escuelas y establecimientos para el cuidado infantil de California, ya sean públicos o privados.

En la nueva ley sobre los requisitos de vacunación, ¿Existe distinción entre las creencias religiosas y las otras creencias personales?

No. No se hace distinción entre las exenciones basadas en creencias religiosas y otras creencias personales.

¿Es una exención por creencias personales aún válida si un estudiante se transfiere a otra escuela de California después del año 2015?

Sí. Una exención por creencias personales presentada en una escuela de California antes del primero de enero del 2016 es válida hasta que el alumno ingrese al siguiente “ciclo de enseñanza”. Las exenciones por creencias personales de California pueden transferirse entre las escuelas de California, tanto dentro de un mismo distrito escolar como entre distritos escolares.