

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to figure out the student's body mass index or 'BMI'. The BMI helps the doctor or nurse know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low.

Legislation passed in 2007 amended Education Law Sections 903 and 904, effective April 1, 2007, to require that each student's health certificate or health appraisal must include an assessment of Body Mass Index (BMI) and a determination of weight status category (based on BMI-for-age percentile). Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require a health certificate or a health appraisal for each public school student at school entry, pre- Kindergarten or Kindergarten, and grades 2, 4, 7 and 10.

Our school district has been selected to report the BMI status on the above mentioned students for the 2011-2012 school year. Only summaries of the weight categories will be sent. No names and no information about individual students are required. However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report.

If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the Health Department's survey this year, please notify the school nurse in your child's school building.

The information sent to the New York State Department of Health will help health officials develop programs that make it easier for children to be healthier.

This information must be reported to the State Education Department by January 29, 2012.

Thank you for your support.
Sylvia Kallich, RN
Administrative Assistant for Health Services
School Nurse Supervisor