

New law (SB277): Changes in Personal Beliefs Exemptions 2016

1. Changes to the immunization requirements for children entering school, starting January 1, 2016:

- Parents or guardians of students in any school will no longer be allowed to submit a personal beliefs exemption to a currently required vaccine.
- Students will no longer be required to have immunizations for entry if they attend:
 - A home-based private school or
 - An independent study program with no classroom-based instruction.
- Students who have an individualized education program (IEP) should continue to receive all necessary services identified in their IEP regardless of their vaccination status. However, parents or guardians must continue to provide immunization records for these students to their schools, and schools must continue to maintain and report records of immunizations that have been received for these students. (See #3)

2. Existing personal belief exemptions filed before January 1, 2016:

A personal beliefs exemption filed with a California school before January 1, 2016 is valid until entry into the next grade span (e.g., 7th through 12th grade). Personal beliefs exemptions may be transferred between schools in California, both within and across school districts. However, if the personal beliefs exemption documentation is no longer available, students must meet all current immunization requirements for enrollment into the school.

PBE filed before January 1, 2016 for entry into grades*:	Will remain valid and in effect for grades:	Will “expire” at entry into the next grade span**:
Early childhood education or child care	Early childhood education or child care	Kindergarten (including TK/ETK)
Kindergarten (including TK/ETK)- 6 th grade	Kindergarten (including TK/ETK)- 6 th grade	7 th grade- 12 th grade
7 th grade- 12 th grade	7 th grade- 12 th grade	

*PBEs may not be filed with the school more than 6 months in advance of entry into child care or school. Therefore, any PBEs filed in 2015 *are not valid* for entry into Kindergarten or 7th grade in (August) 2016.

**Before entering the next grade span, students must have all age-appropriate immunizations required for school entry. Entering 7th graders must have all of the age-appropriate immunizations required for Kindergarten (or elementary school), in addition to Tdap. Discuss cases with the School Nurse.

3. Students who have an individualized education program (IEP):

- Special education students should continue to receive all necessary services identified in their IEP, regardless of their immunization status
- Students with an IEP should be allowed to enroll in school and access their education and Special Education services
- Parents or guardians must continue to provide an immunization record for their student with an IEP
- Schools will maintain and report records of the immunizations as they do for all students
- The School Nurse should:
 - i. Discuss with parents the immunization requirements for their child
 - ii. Request the parent seek a medical exemption, if appropriate (See #4)
 - iii. If there is no medical reason to exempt the student from immunizations, the School Nurse should counsel the parents/guardians and student (if appropriate) on the personal and public health risks of not vaccinating, including the risk of school exclusion during outbreaks. (See Parent Education Material at: <http://eziz.org/resources/parented/>)
 - iv. Document all discussion and the parents understanding of their decision to not follow immunization requirements in Welligent, and on the IEP (FAPE 2, Part 4).
- Any student who is not identified as a Special Education student with an IEP may not be enrolled into school without evidence of receipt of currently required vaccines.

4. Medical exemptions remain in effect:

If a student has medical reasons for not being immunized, the parent or guardian must submit a written statement from a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) which states:

- That the physical condition or medical circumstances of the child are such that the required immunization(s) is not indicated
- Which vaccines are being exempted
- Whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary
- The expiration date, if the exemption is temporary

See Medical Exemption to Required Immunization form (link)

For any other questions see the Frequently Asked Questions at:

<http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/>