

SUBJECT: CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

The Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activity and can have serious consequences if not managed carefully. The District is committed to implement strategies to reduce the risk of head injuries in the school setting and during District sponsored events. Therefore, the District adopts the following policy to support the proper evaluation and management of head injuries.

Concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury. Concussion occurs when normal brain functioning is disrupted by a blow or jolt to the head. Recovery from concussion will vary. Avoiding re-injury and over-exertion until fully recovered are the cornerstones of proper concussion management.

While district staff will exercise reasonable care to protect students, head injuries may still occur. Physical education teachers, coaches, nurses and other appropriate staff will receive training to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. Any student exhibiting those signs, symptoms or behaviors while participating in a school sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic athletic activity shall be removed from the game or activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional. The athletic trainer, coach, school nurse, or other District employee in charge of or supervising the activity will notify the student's parents or guardians and recommend appropriate monitoring to them.

If a student sustains a concussion at a time other than when engaged in a school-sponsored activity, the district expects the parent/legal guardian to report the condition to the school nurse so that the District can support the appropriate management of the condition.

The student shall not return to school or activity until he/she is symptom free for at least 24 hours, has been evaluated by and provides written authorization from an appropriate health care professional. Any student who presents a medical clearance from his/her primary care physician will be started on the appropriate level of the District's return-to-play protocol. Prior to the student's return to full participation, the student will need to have the return-to-play form signed by the District-Wide Nurse Practitioner.

The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the chief school medical officer, will develop regulations and protocols to guide the return to activity.

This policy shall be reviewed every three years or any time that the State Education Department updates their Concussion Management Guidance documents.