

## STUDENTS

Concussion Management

- I. Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) supports the need to ensure that our staff, students, and community are aware of the seriousness of brain injuries and concussions and how they can affect the student's abilities in the educational setting. It is the policy of the School Division that:
  - A. Students participating in PWCS events shall be properly evaluated at the event for concussions if exposed to a head injury;
  - B. All students who appear to have sustained a concussion, at a PWCS event or (any school sponsored activity) or otherwise, shall be given support and encouragement to engage a health care professional who is experienced in evaluating and treating concussion injuries and appropriate information to help them identify such injuries; and
  - C. All students who have been diagnosed with or appear to have sustained a concussion, whether at a PWCS event or not, shall be given appropriate time to heal prior to returning to physical or cognitive activities as supported through the comprehensive Return to Learn and Return to Play protocols; and as provided in Regulation 759-1, Concussion Management and Education.

The Superintendent shall prepare regulations:

- A. Addressing concussion evaluation and management at all interscholastic events at high schools and middle schools, to include the appropriate staffing of certified athletic trainers (ATC) at appropriate schools;
- B. That provide for appropriate cognitive rest periods immediately following a concussion diagnosis or a suspected concussion on the basis of an evaluation by a PWCS certified athletic trainer or school nurse, and assessment protocols for appropriate return to classroom activities;
- C. That provide for appropriate Return to Play (RTP) guidelines for athletes at the middle school and high school level. In no case should the athletic trainer familiar with a student recovering from a MBTI injury be required to certify a student ready to return to an activity if they [the ATC] are not medically comfortable with that decision;
- D. Identifying training and certification requirements for athletic trainers employed by PWCS;
- E. Addressing concussion education for certified staff, coaches, and administrative personnel at the Division and school level, participating students, and their parents. Education shall include, but not be limited to, signs and symptoms of a concussion, danger signals, recovery protocols, and the importance of cognitive rest during recovery. At a minimum the materials prepared for school personnel by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) should be covered, and additional resources should be used as appropriate;

Providing for training of physical education teachers and other sponsors/leaders of activities where students are at risk of head injury, to facilitate rapid recognition of such events, and prompt consultation with medical professionals;

- F. Such other regulations as may be helpful to prevent or reduce the frequency of such injuries.

The Level Associate Superintendents and the Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) are responsible for implementing and monitoring this policy. Because of the rapid growth in research and awareness within the medical community, the Concussion Policy Review Team, under the direction of the Supervisor of Health and Physical Education, Driver Education, JROTC, and Athletics is responsible for reviewing this policy and accompanying regulations on an annual basis. The results of this review shall be reported to the School Board via the Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability following the implementation of this policy.

Legal References: Virginia Codes §22.1-271-5; 22.1-276

Adopted: April 13, 2011

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Revised: June 14, 2016