

Senate Bill 277 Parent Notification Letter

Dear Forest Charter Families,

On January 1, 2016 Senate Bill 277 went into effect. This law no longer allows parents or guardians of students in any school to submit a personal belief exemption (PBE) for currently required vaccines when students either enroll in a school for the first time or when students enter seventh grade (defined at the next grade span).

However, since Forest Charter School is a non-classroom based school (i.e. independent study), this law does not directly apply to our program. Some of you may have noticed that the law also requires immunizations for students at an independent study school if they participate in classroom-based instruction. While Forest Charter School offers a variety of programs and learning opportunities, none of them meet the statutory definition of classroom-based instruction. Therefore, until this definition is changed or clarified for the purposes of this law, Forest Charter School believes that the law allows non-vaccinated students to enroll in our school and participate in our programs.

Parents should note that if their student leaves Forest Charter School and transfers to a school that offers statutorily defined classroom-based instruction, you will be required to provide proof of immunizations, a Personal Belief Exemption form already on file with your previous school, or a medical waiver.

This letter serves as both an explanation for how Forest Charter School is implementing the law and as a notice to families of vaccinated children that Forest Charter School is legally obligated to enroll non-vaccinated students. As such, parents should understand that there might not be the same protections of a fully vaccinated student body that may exist at another school setting.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter Sagebiel
Executive Director
Forest Charter School

Charter Council Approved 2/9/2016

Resources:

Shots for Schools – Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/#Q22>

Link to the Statutory Definition of Classroom Based Instruction:

[https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I2F36DA80D48011DEBC02831C6D6C108E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I2F36DA80D48011DEBC02831C6D6C108E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))