

New York State Concussion Management and Awareness Act

Key Legislative Guidelines

Schools must provide a course of instruction on concussions and appropriate responses to suspected concussions that is taken by all school coaches, physical education teachers, nurses and athletic trainers on a biennial basis.

Schools must include information on concussions in any permission form or parent/guardian consent form required for a student's participation in interscholastic sports. The information must include, but not be limited to:

- the definition of "concussion";
- signs and symptoms of mild traumatic brain injuries and how such injuries may occur;
- and guidelines for return to school and certain school activities after a pupil has suffered a concussion, regardless of whether the injury occurred outside of school.

Schools should also either post such information on their websites or inform parents how they can obtain such information from the websites of the State Education Department and the Department of Health.

Schools must immediately remove from athletic activities any student believed to have sustained a concussion. If there is any doubt as to whether the student has sustained a concussion, school districts must operate on the presumption that the student has a concussion. Students are not permitted to resume athletic activity unless they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours, been evaluated by a licensed physician and received the physician's written, signed authorization clearing them. Consistent with the student's treating physician's directives, guidelines must be established for limitations and restrictions on school attendance and activities after sustaining a concussion.