

HEALTH POLICY
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

USE OF SUNSCREEN

Purpose

To provide guidelines for the use of sunscreen by students at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Guiding Philosophy

Although preventable, skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Evidence shows that even one blistering sunburn during childhood or adolescence can nearly double a person's chance of developing melanoma, and the American Academy of Dermatology recommends that children, especially, should be protected from the sun. The CDC advises applying sunscreen every time a child goes outside.

Under previous law students could wear sunscreen to school but could not bring the product to school and reapply it while at school. The majority of over-the-counter sunscreens require reapplication after a certain number of hours and/or after exercise and swimming to be effective.

Sunscreen is a research based preventative against sun damage and skin cancer, therefore, having it available to students enables them to have access throughout the day and especially on field trips and during outdoor play.

Students are taught in Health Class that regular use of sunscreen is important in the protection of their skin against damage from the sun and against skin cancer. Allowing use of sunscreen in school aligns with what they are taught in the RISDeaf Health Curriculum.

Policy

Legislation (2021-H 5164, 2021-S 0034A) approved by the General Assembly July 1, 2021 and signed into law July 2, 2021 allows students at school to possess and use an FDA regulated over-the-counter topical sunscreen. Rhode Island School for the Deaf staff shall follow this regulation.

Children in preschool through grade five need to bring in a note from their parent or guardian giving their child permission to have and use sunscreen at school. A written email will also be accepted.

In the beginning-of-the-year annual enrollment packets, this permission is formally requested of parents and guardians.

Approved: July 13, 2022