

## **HEAD INJURY MANAGEMENT POLICY**

*The purpose of this policy is to provide information and standardized procedures for Acton-Boxborough staff, families and students dealing with diagnosed or suspected head injuries. These procedures will include measures addressing prevention, training, management and return to activity decisions. Our policy and procedures must address sports-related head injuries occurring in extracurricular athletic and marching band activities, but will also be applied to all head injuries in students regardless of causation or source.*

Head injuries and concussions can have serious consequences for students, including long-term health and educational issues. Proper management of such incidents can help maximize recovery. Early recognition of a head injury/concussion is essential to safe management and to the ultimate goal of a return to normal physical and academic functioning.

Every season, the District shall collect and review health history information for every student who participates in athletic and marching band activities.

Concussion training is required and documented annually for athletic staff, school nurses, and for students participating in school athletic and marching band activities and their parents. Information on the dangers of opiate use and misuses shall be distributed to all students prior to commencement of their athletic seasons, in conjunction with the District's annual head injury safety program.

Suspected concussions that occur during school activities are reported immediately to families for referral to a provider. Care and management of head injuries in the school setting requires collaboration between families, school nurses, coaches, athletic trainer if available, primary care physicians, consulting athletic and school physicians, athletic director, marching band director, administrators and counselors.

Review and revision of this policy and procedures shall occur as needed, but at a minimum every two years.

**LEGAL REFERENCE: M.G.L. c. 111, section 222**

Reviewed and Approved: 2/2/12, 5/22/14, 11/17/16