

## **CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Board recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activity and can have serious consequences if not managed carefully. Therefore, BOCES adopts the following policy to support the proper evaluation and management of head injuries.

Concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury. Concussion occurs when normal brain functioning is disrupted by a blow or jolt to the head. Recovery from concussion will vary. Avoiding re-injury and over-exertion until fully recovered are the cornerstones of proper concussion management

While BOCES staff will exercise reasonable care to protect students, head injuries may still occur. Physical education teachers, nurses, and other appropriate staff will receive training to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. Any student exhibiting those signs, symptoms or behaviors while participating in a BOCES sponsored class, or extracurricular activity, activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional. The school nurse will notify the student's parents or guardians and recommend appropriate monitoring to parents or guardians.

If a student sustains a concussion at a time other than when engaged in a BOCES sponsored activity, BOCES expects the parent/legal guardian to report the condition to a school nurse so that BOCES can support the appropriate management of the condition.

The student shall not return to BOCES or activity until authorized to do so by an appropriate health care professional. Any student who continues to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from activities and reevaluated by their health care provider. The District Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate BOCES staff, will develop regulations and protocols to guide the return to activity.

Adopted March 11, 2015