

## **SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District 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. In accordance with New York State Education Law 1709 8-a 301-b (The Concussion Management and Awareness Act) the District has established a concussion management team made up of the following individuals; Athletic Director, School Nurse, and School Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) 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 district staff will exercise reasonable care to protect students, head injuries may still occur. Physical education teachers, coaches, nurses and other appropriate staff will receive training to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. Parental concussion information will also be available on the district athletic website. Any student exhibiting those signs, symptoms or behaviors while participating in a school sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic athletic activity shall be removed from the game or activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional. The School Nurse (RN) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) 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 school-sponsored activity, the district expects the parent/legal guardian to report the condition to the school nurse so that the district can support the appropriate management of the condition.

The student shall not return to school or activity until authorized to do so by an appropriate health care professional. The school's chief medical officer and the concussion management team will make the final decision on return to activity including physical education class and/or after-school sports. Any student who continues to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from play and reevaluated by their health care provider.

The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the chief school medical officer, will develop regulations and protocols to guide the return to activity.

Adopted: February 2, 2012