Page 4-KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD-Tuesday, October 9, 1979

State To Enforce Law In 1980-81, **KM Schools Enforcing It Now**

By GARY STEWART Co-Editor

A new law requiring all school children in grades K-12 to be immunized for measles, rubella, DPT and polio will be strictly enforced beginning with the 1980-81 school term.

Kings Mountain schools have already begun steps to comply with the law, which went into effect July 1.

Supt. William Davis said school nurse Betty Masters and social worker Hallie Blanton will spend the

checking the records of all of the 4,000-plus students in the eight

district schools. "We will strictly enforce the policy established by the state that immunization be required," said Davis. "Anyone who has not been immunized will be given a 30 day grace period and at the end of 30 days, if the student hasn't had immunization, he will not be permitted to continue school attendance."

Kings Mountain schools had a serious immunization problem almost a year ago when it was

next several weeks personally discovered by Mrs. Masters that a large percentage of the students had incomplete immunization records. Most of the students involved were those who had transferred in from other districts.

'We hadn't monitored the records closely enough," said Davis. "But we corrected it by the end of the year."

Davis said the number of students with incomplete records now is 'very small, but Mrs. Masters and Mrs. Blanton will be spending a lot of time the next two weeks making sure all students are in compliance

with the immunization law."

Dr. J.N. MacCormack, head of the Communicable Disease Control Branch of the Department of Human Resources' Division of Health Services, said the only exceptions to the law this year are rubella for students who entered school before the fall of 1977 and measles for those who entered school before the fall of 1971. Immunizations will be required before any child may attend school in 1980-81.

"All students are now required to have three doses of oral polio and three doses of diphtheria, pertussis

and tetanus no matter what grade they are in," said MacCormack. "Principals are responsible for enforcing this law this year.

"The Division of Health Services will be prepared to investigate all school records in September of 1980 to make sure the law has been complied with," he added.

"Under law, all school officials are required to enforce the new immunization law as soon as records can be checked and parents can be given 30 days in which to comply," he added. "The new law went into effect July 1 of this year and does

WEST GATE PLAZA, SHELBY ROAD

apply to this school year." Parents who fail to comply with the law are subject to a \$500 fine or six months in prison.

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"The Kings Mountain School System expects to comply with all immunization laws as required by the State Division of Health Services," Davis said. "All parents of school children are requested to be aware of immunization requirements and to work with school and health department officials in complying fully with the immunization laws.



Mountaineer Gridgraph

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meet at the Kings Mountain Inn at 7 p.m. Tuesday (tonight). Lion George Sherrill has arranged for Paul Hord, Jr. to present the program. Mr. Hord is a candidate for the Kings Mountain School Board.

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