



Policy Number: 2070

Dated: Updated June 22, 2017

Policy Medical Recommendations

PURPOSE

American Leadership Academy Board of Trustees recognizes that the decision for a student to see a health care professional or use medication is a parental concern. In working with students, school personnel may be in a position to make or give recommendations to parents/guardians which impact their children's education. As a general rule, all non-medical school personnel should refrain from discussing with and making recommendations to parents/guardians about perceived student medical needs.

The purpose of this policy is to clarify for school personnel and parents/guardians the recommendations or directions that school personnel may make or give to parents/guardians about seeing health care professionals or using specific medication for their children. The Board directs the Executive Director to develop procedures to implement this policy.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Health care professional" means a physician, physician assistant, nurse, dentist, or mental health therapist.
2. "School personnel" means any school employee, including licensed, part-time, contract and non-licensed employees.
3. "Mental health professional" (under this statute) means clinical and certified social worker, marriage and family therapist; professional counselor substance abuse counselor; physician, surgeon or osteopathic physician engaged in the practice of mental health therapy; advanced practice registered nurse specializing in psychiatric mental health nursing; psychologist qualified in mental health therapy.
4. "School psychologist" means any mental health professional licensed by the State Board of Education.
5. "Parent" means natural parent or legal guardian.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL MAY:

1. Provide information and observations to a student's parent about the student, including observations and concerns about the following;
 - a. Progress
 - b. Health and wellness
 - c. Social interactions
 - d. Behavior

- e. Situations which exist that “present a serious threat to the well-being of a student” (Section 53A-13-302(6))
2. Communicate information/observations between school personnel about a child.
3. Refer a student to appropriate school personnel/agents, consistent with school policy, including to a school counselor or other mental health professionals within the school system.
4. Consult or use appropriate health care professionals in emergency situations while student is at school, consistent with student emergency information provided at student enrollment.
5. Complete a behavioral health evaluation form if requested by student’s parent to provide information to a physician.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL SHALL:

1. Report suspected child abuse consistent with state law.
2. Comply with state and local health department laws, rules and policies.
3. Conduct student evaluations/assessments consistent with IDEA.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL MAY NOT:

1. Require that a student take/continue to take psychotropic medication.
2. Recommend that a parent seek or use a psychiatric/psychological treatment for a child.
3. Conduct a psychiatric/behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, assessment of a child except where specifically required by IDEA.
4. Make a report of suspected child abuse only because a parent refuses to allow a psychiatric, psychological, behavioral treatment for a child unless not doing so would “present a serious, imminent risk” to a child’s safety or the safety of others.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR, MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST WORKING WITHIN THE SCHOOL MAY:

1. Recommend, but not require, psychiatric/behavioral health evaluation or treatment of a child.
2. Recommend, but not require, psychological treatment of a child.
3. Conduct a child psychiatric/behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, assessment consistent with 53A-13-302 (only in non-protected subject areas or with prior written parental consent).
4. Provide to parent, upon specific request, a list of three or more health care professionals/providers.

ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

1. Provide training of school personnel on this information.
2. State that intentional violation of provisions of this information is cause for disciplinary action or educator licensing action.