

Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs**Statement**

The Board of Education prohibits school personnel from recommending, directly or indirectly, the use of psychotropic drugs for any child. However, school health and mental health personnel may recommend that a child be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner. The Planning and Placement Team may recommend a medical evaluation as part of an initial evaluation or reevaluation, as needed to determine a child's eligibility for special education and related services, or educational needs for an individualized education program. School personnel may consult with an appropriate medical practitioner outside of the school with the consent of the parents or guardian of the child.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for formulating any administrative regulations needed to implement this policy.

Definitions

"Psychotropic drugs" means prescription medications for behavioral or social-emotional concerns, such as attention deficits, impulsivity, anxiety, depression, thought disorders, and includes, but is not limited to: stimulant medication and antidepressants.

"School health or mental health personnel" means school nurses, nurse practitioners, school medical advisors, school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors and other such school personnel who have been identified as the person responsible for communicating with a parent or guardian about a child's need for a medical evaluation.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-212b

Public Act 06-18, An Act Concerning Special Education

34 C.F.R. § 300.174 Prohibition on mandatory medication.

Adopted: May 29, 2012

Administrative Regulations

Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs

- A. A school health or mental health personnel, as defined above, may communicate with other school personnel about a child who may require a recommendation for a medical evaluation, provided that there is a legitimate educational interest in sharing such information; and such communication will remain confidential, to the extent required by law.

- B. A school health or mental health personnel, as defined above, may communicate a recommendation to a parent or guardian that a child be evaluated by a medical practitioner provided that 1) based on such person's professional experience, objective factors indicate that a medical evaluation may be necessary to address concerns relating to the child's education and overall mental health; and 2) any communication includes the basis for the recommendation.

- C. If a parent or guardian determines that it is necessary to share medical information, including results of any medical evaluation, with school personnel, he or she may do so at any time. School personnel who receive such information directly from a parent must maintain the confidentiality of such information, to the extent required by law.

- D. Any school personnel with a legitimate educational interest in obtaining information from a child's medical practitioner outside the school who is not a school employee must obtain prior, written consent from the child's parent or guardian to communicate with such outside medical practitioners. Any school health or mental health personnel, as defined above, may request written consent from the parent or guardian. To be valid, the written consent must: 1) be signed by the child's parent or guardian; 2) be dated; 3) provide the child's name; 4) provide the name of the medical practitioner and relevant contact information, to the extent known; and 5) indicate the scope of the consent.

- E. Nothing in this policy will be construed to prevent school personnel from consulting with a medical practitioner who has information concerning a child, as long as the school district has obtained consent from the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the child. Nothing in this policy shall prevent a planning and placement team from recommending a medical evaluation as part of an initial evaluation or reevaluation, as needed to determine a child's eligibility for special education and related services, or educational needs for an individualized education program.

