POLICY 4118.234(a)/ POLICY 5141.231(a)

Personnel -- Certified/Non-Certified

Students

Psychotropic Drug Use

The Board of Education prohibits all school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any student enrolled within the school system. For purposes of this policy, the term “recommend” shall mean to directly or indirectly suggest that a student use psychotropic drugs. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit (A) school health or mental health personnel from recommending that a child be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, (B) school personnel from consulting with such practitioner with the consent of the parents or guardian of such child, (C) the planning and placement team from recommending a medical evaluation as part of an initial evaluation or reevaluation, as needed to determine a child’s (i) eligibility for special education and related services, or (ii) educational needs for an individualized education program.

Psychotropic drugs are defined as prescription medications for behavioral or social-emotional concerns, such as attention deficits, impulsivity, anxiety, depression and thought disorders and includes but is not limited to stimulant medications and anti-depressants.

However, school health or mental health personnel, including school nurses or nurse practitioners, the District Medical Advisors, school psychologists, administrators, school social workers, and school counselors may recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner.

Communications between and among school health, mental health personnel and other school personnel pertaining to a child in possible need of a recommendation for a medical evaluation shall be accomplished through the District’s established child study teams and/or the PPT process, in conformity with state and federal special education statutes.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) from discussing with parents and/or guardians of a student the appropriateness of consultation with, or evaluation by, medical practitioners with the consent of the parents and/or guardians of a student.

The Board recognizes that the refusal of a parent or other person having control of a child to administer or consent to the administration of any psychotropic drug to the child shall not, in and of itself, constitute grounds for the Department of Children and families (DCF) to take such student into custody or for any court of competent jurisdiction to order that such student
Personnel -- Certified/Non-Certified

Students

Psychotropic Drug Use (continued)

be taken into custody by the Department, unless such refusal causes such student to be neglected or abused, as defined in C.G. S. 46b-120

The superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall promulgate this policy to district staff and parents/guardians of students annually and upon registration of new students.

Legal reference:  Connecticut General statutes
10-212b Policies prohibiting the recommendation of psychotropic drugs by school personnel. (as amended by PA 03-211)
46b-120 Definitions
10-76a Definitions. (as amended by PA 00-48)
10-76b State supervision of special education programs and services
10-76d duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services (as amended by PA 97-114 and PA 00-48)
10-76h Special education hearing and review procedure. Mediation of disputes (as amended by PA 00-48)
State board of education regulations
34 C.F.R. 3000 assistance to States for Education for Handicapped Children.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.