

## STUDENT HELP PROGRAM

The District wishes to provide help, guidance and referral when a student shows an indication of a problem. Because it is also important to provide for every student a healthy and appropriate atmosphere in which to seek an education, the Board becomes concerned when an individual student's welfare and performance are affected during the school day, on the school grounds or during a school-related activity to a point which may endanger the property, health, or safety of themselves or others.

The Board recognizes that more and more young people today are turning to drugs and alcohol as a means of escaping problems that arise in their lives. This rise in the use of drugs and alcohol may be due in part to social, emotional, peer, home and/or school problems. This use of drugs and alcohol can create additional problems for the student, their family and others. Recognizing these issues, the Board encourages the cooperation between the home, school and community in providing a Student Help Program in the District.

Although the District recognizes that the greatest responsibility for dealing with drug and/or alcohol use and abuse rests with the student and their parents, it also recognizes its responsibility in providing assistance to the student and parents in prevention and intervention. The Board hopes that the community will continue its concern for and involvement in the development of youth programs.

The Board is aware that many students have successfully avoided the use of alcohol and other drugs in dealing with their problems. Inasmuch, the Student Help Program will also be available to these students in solving their problems while continuing to abstain from drug and alcohol use.

The following general policies will govern the Student Help Program:

1. The District will continue developing its instructional programs to meet present and future needs related to drug and alcohol abuse education. Basic attitudes that lead to drug and alcohol abuse will be dealt with along with the facts regarding legal, physical and psychological results arising from abuse.
2. All staff members of the District shall keep confidential, any information received from a student, parent or community member that the student or another student is using or is experiencing problems resulting from the use of drugs and/or alcohol, or is experiencing other crisis or near-crisis situations when the purpose is to seek help for that student. Confidentiality will be maintained except if any of the following criteria apply:
  - Written consent
  - perceived Serious and imminent danger
  - Required reporting for child abuse/neglect
3. Staff members involved in the implementation of student help program regulations will be provided with legal counsel at Board expense, if needed.
4. No records of a student's participation in the program will become a part of the student's permanent school record. The fact of a student's participation in the program, including conversations he/she may have with staff members or the principal, will not be made part of the student's permanent school record.

## STUDENT HELP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Student Help Program will:

- a. Help support those students who are non-users, and who want help in their decision not to use;
- b. Help those students who are using/abusing alcohol and other drugs, and who could benefit from activities focusing on values, attitudes, responsible decision-making and accurate information;
- c. Help make assistance available to those students whose use/abuse is causing severe problems in their daily lives, and who may require professional care;
- d. Help students returning from a treatment program, by supporting them in their new life style;
- e. Help students cope with the stress of living with a family member who is chemically dependent, and is having a negative affect on the student's life; and
- f. Make the means of help available to any student with a problem.

## PREVENTION

### 1. Inservice

Staff members shall be encouraged to develop an increasing awareness of student problems. They shall also be involved in inservice programs to develop their competencies in dealing with drug and alcohol problems and to make them aware of available community resources.

### 2. Curriculum

All (K-6) teachers will be involved in the development of curriculum dealing in alcohol and other drug issues and allow for a classroom climate conducive to open discussion of these issues. Prevention (K-12) programs, where possible, should be incorporated into the existing school curriculum.

### 3. Counseling

School counselors and staff members will provide students with experiences for the development of decision-making, inter-personal skills and other abilities such as goal setting, values, awareness and clarification and personal motivation.

### 4. Extracurricular Activities

The District will provide extracurricular activities which provide students with opportunities to develop competencies and explore responsible alternatives to alcohol and other drug use.

## INTERVENTION

(The school may become involved with intervention measures in any of the following circumstances.)

1. Student-self referral, student-parent referral, or student-community member referral.
  - a. Student self-referral and parent-student-community referral occurs when a student, parent, or community member comes in confidence to school personnel with a concern that the student may have a drug, alcohol, or personal problem.
  - b. It is the responsibility of staff members to keep confidential, from a student, parent or

community member, any information received from a student that the student or another student is using or is experiencing problems resulting from the use of alcohol and/or other drugs, or is experiencing other crisis or near-crisis situations. Any staff member who receives such confidential information shall first make a personal evaluation of the situation, and then make every effort to help the student through the crisis by:

- 1) Listening and showing a high degree of personal understanding
  - 2) Clarifying with the student his or her options, and/or
  - 3) Consulting with or directing the student to consult with school district guidance counselors, or
  - 4) Directing the student to professional counseling, or
  - 5) Encouraging parent involvement with student consent
- c. The staff member's obligation lapses when:
- 1) Common welfare demands revelation, (Life threatening situations)
  - 2) The secret is invalid,
  - 3) Unjust aggression occurs,
  - 4) The student gives consent, or
  - 5) The secret is published, or
  - 6) The use of drugs or alcohol is detected
- d. At all times it is the prerogative of the student and families to accept referral to outside assistance, or to reject it. Regardless of whether a student accepts or rejects assistance, it still remains his/her responsibility to maintain satisfactory or acceptable levels of performance and conduct, or face such legitimate disciplinary action as may be corrective and warranted.

If a student accepts referral and/or treatment, that fact will be regarded as it would for any illness, with respect to benefits and privileges. So long as a student is involved with the program, and is making progress, there is no reason why he/she may not remain in school and school related activities.

## 2. Staff Referrals

### a. Counseling Services

Staff referral occurs when a staff member perceives and reports a problem with a student's school performance to a counselor. A referral to a counselor will be handled in accordance with the confidentiality policy.

### b. Administrative Services

A staff referral occurs when a staff member reports to a principal and/or designee for investigation of an immediate problem with a student who is or appears to be distributing, selling, in possession of and/or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. This would apply during the school day, on school grounds, or during any school-related activity.

LEGAL REF.: 48.981 – Wisconsin Statutes  
118.125 – Wisconsin Statutes  
118.126 – Wisconsin Statutes  
118.127 – Wisconsin Statutes  
118.24(2)(f) – Wisconsin Statutes  
118.257 – Wisconsin Statutes

120.13(1) – Wisconsin Statutes  
125.02(8m) – Wisconsin Statutes  
146.81 – Wisconsin Statutes  
146.83 – Wisconsin Statutes  
Chapter 961

**CROSS REF.:** 333 – Student Privacy/Parent Rights and District Programs/Activities  
347-Rule – Guidelines for Maintenance and Confidentiality of Students Records  
411 – Equal Educational Opportunities  
443 – Student Conduct  
443.4 – Student Alcohol and Drug Use  
447 – Student Discipline  
Student Handbooks

**APPROVED:** June 11, 1981  
July 22, 1985  
January 16, 2012  
**NOVEMBER 21, 2016**