

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 child use psychotropic drugs.

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

School health or mental health personnel (nurses, nurse practitioners, medical advisers, psychologists, and social workers) may recommend to a parent or guardian that a child be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner. In addition, school health and mental health personnel may request written consent from a parent or guardian to communicate about such child with a medical practitioner outside the school.

Communications between and among school health, mental health personnel and other school personnel (school nurse, school psychologist or school social worker) 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, Section 504 Team and/or the planning and placement team and its procedures, in conformity with state and federal special education statutes.

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 child into custody or for any court of competent jurisdiction to order that such child be taken into custody by the Department, unless such refusal causes such child 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 the registration of new students.

(cf. 5141.4 - Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-212b Policies prohibiting the recommendation of psychotropic drugs by school personnel.

46b-120. Definitions

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

10-76a Definitions.

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.

10-76h Special education hearing and review procedure. Mediation of disputes.

State Board of Education Regulations.

34 C.F.R. 3000 Assistance to States for Education for Handicapped Children.

United States Code

American with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794.

Policy adopted: October 8, 2002
Policy revised: August 26, 2003
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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut