

Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified

Students

Psychotropic Drug Use

The Amity Regional School District No. 5 (ARSD) Board of Education (Board) 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 including school nurses or nurse practitioners, ARSD’s Medical Advisor, school psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors may recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner.

ARSD shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities or suspected disabilities provided in state and federal statutes that govern special education.

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

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Psychotropic Drug Use

In order to properly implement the Board policy prohibiting school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any child, the following administrative regulations are hereby established:

1. Psychotropic drugs are defined as prescription medications for behavioral or social-emotional concerns, such as attention deficits, impulsivity, anxiety, depression and thought disorders.
2. Psychotropic drugs include, but are not limited to, Ritalin, Adderal, Dexedrine and other stimulant medication, and anti-depressants.
3. All school personnel, including teachers and administrators are prohibited from any communications, both oral and written, to the parents and/or guardians of a child in which the use of psychotropic drugs is recommended.
4. School health or mental health personnel which includes school nurses or nurse practitioners, the District Medical Advisor, school psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors are permitted to discuss with parents and/or guardians of a child the advisability of a medical evaluation by an appropriate medical practitioner when there are behaviors or concerns that may be indicative of medication considerations.
5. School personnel, through the Planning and Placement Team referral process, shall communicate to the school medical staff about a child's behavior that may indicate the need for an evaluation.
6. The Planning and Placement Team (PPT) 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 a child's individualized education program (IEP).
7. Appropriate medical practitioners, such as a psychiatric consultant or physician, with whom the District contracts for services to students or to whom the District makes a referral for an evaluation may recommend such medications.

Personnel – Certified

Students

Psychotropic Drug Use (continued)

8. School personnel may consult with the medical practitioner performing the evaluation with the informed consent of the parent or guardian of the child. The purposes of such communication include the following:
 - a. Conveying concerns or observations of a child, both prior to and following a medical evaluation;
 - b. Requesting health records and other educationally relevant medical evaluations;
 - c. Providing school records to medical practitioners upon request;
 - d. Providing information on school performance to help a medical practitioner monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of psychotropic drugs and/or other medical interventions and/or treatment;
 - e. Discussing with medical practitioners appropriate and necessary nursing or health care in schools to ensure student safety;
 - f. Disclosure of educationally relevant information by the medical practitioner to school personnel.

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