

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Salem, Connecticut

PERSONNEL – CERTIFIED / NON-CERTIFIED  
STUDENTS

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. "Recommend" means to directly or indirectly suggest that a child should use psychotropic drugs.
3. Psychotropic drugs include, but are not limited to, Ritalin, Adderal, Dexedrine and other stimulant medication, and anti-depressants.
4. 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.
5. 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 is 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.
6. 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.
7. The Planning and Placement Team (PPT) has the authority and responsibility to 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).
8. If a parent/guardian determines that it is necessary to share medical information, including the results of any medical evaluation with school personnel, he/she may do so at any time. School personnel receiving such information directly from a parent/guardian must maintain the confidentiality of such information, to the extent required by law.
9. As required, the District may seek remedy through the due process provisions allowed under the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA) if a parent and/or guardian refuses consent for a reevaluation.
10. 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.

11. 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.
12. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is limited by this legislation to take a child into custody solely on the refusal of a parent or guardian to administer or consent to the administration of any psychotropic drug. However, a PPT meeting may be convened if the child is eligible or may be eligible for special education or making a referral to the Department of Children and Families if there are concerns about a child's safety and possible abuse or neglect.

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

Procedures Approved: December 7, 2020