

Student Assistance Program

The district recognizes that students can experience a number of personal, behavioral or medical problems which can have an adverse effect on their behavior, conduct or academic performance in school. Such problems could include learning disabilities, physical illness or problems, emotional and psychological problems, family or legal problems and alcohol and other drug abuse problems. The school becomes concerned when any of these problems, which may involve a student or family member, repeatedly and definitely interferes with a student's school performance, or jeopardizes the health, safety, welfare, educational opportunity or rights of other students or personnel.

Therefore each building will establish a Student Assistance Program to handle problems arising from behavioral/medical problems, including alcohol and other drug abuse, to function within the following guidelines:

1. The responsibility to maintain satisfactory or acceptable levels of academic performance and general conduct remains with the student at all times, whether in school, at school-sponsored events or on school grounds. When school performance falls below satisfactory or acceptable levels, the student may be given the choice of improving conduct or performance, accepting the appropriate disciplinary action or accepting referral to a student assistance program;
2. Students may be referred to a student assistance program by any staff member who is aware of a student who exhibits a pattern of definite and repeated unacceptable or unsatisfactory performance; who violates a school rule, or state or federal statute; or who manifests any signs, symptoms, or indications of the presence of a behavioral/medical problem;
3. The counseling staff or other appropriate staff member will attempt, by consulting with the student, to arrive at the probable cause of the performance or behavior problem. They may not counsel, provide or otherwise treat the student in the absence of a professional diagnosis and evaluation. They may, however, recommend referral to the appropriate source of care, in consultation with the principal, the student and his/her parent;
4. If a student accepts referral and treatment, the fact will be regarded as it would for any illness, with respect to benefits or privileges. So long as a student attends professional counseling on a regular basis and is cooperatively and/or successfully addressing his/her problem, the student may remain in school and continue with normal activities and privileges. All treatment by professionals outside the school system shall be a financial responsibility of the student and/or parents;
5. An essential feature of the student assistance program is that students who think they have a behavioral/medical problem, including alcohol and other drug abuse, may contact the counseling staff voluntarily with the same assurance of confidentiality. In case of suicide issues, protection of

student health may forgo the normal assurance of confidentiality;

6. The awareness and support of parents for a student with a behavioral/medical or personal problem is extremely important. However, should either students or parent/guardians not wish to cooperate in improving school performance, or in making assistance available, the student's status in school will be reevaluated, taking into consideration the best interests of the student, the nature of the problem, and the health, safety, welfare, educational opportunity, and rights of other students or personnel;
7. It is against school policy for anyone – students or staff – to be in school, on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Federal and state laws also prohibit the possession, use, sale or delivery of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances. The school district recognizes its responsibility to inform and involve the appropriate law enforcement officials of violations;
8. It is the responsibility of each building administrator and/or designee to use procedures consistent with this policy. Nothing in this policy is intended to result in any special regulations or exceptions from standard administrative practices regarding student discipline.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

Kelson v. The City of Springfield, 767 F. 2d 651 (9th Cir. 1985).