

Students

PROHIBITION OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

In accordance with state law, school personnel are prohibited from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any child in the school district. Psychotropic drugs are prescription medications for behavioral or social-emotional concerns such as attention deficits, impulsivity, anxiety, depression and thought disorders. These drugs include, but are not limited to stimulant medication and antidepressants.

School health or mental personnel (nurses, nurse practitioners, medical advisers, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and planning and placement teams) 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.

Other school personnel who suspect a student's behavioral or social-emotional condition may need a recommendation for medical evaluation shall communicate these concerns to school health and mental health personnel by a referral to a student assistance team or planning and placement team, as appropriate.

The Board of Education recognizes that the refusal of a child's parent or guardian to consent to the use of any psychotropic drug for the child may not, in and of itself, constitute grounds for neglect or abuse as defined by law. If there is concern that the refusal to consent to the use of psychotropic drugs rises to the level of abuse or neglect, school personnel should refer to the policy on child abuse prevention and reporting procedures.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-212b Policies prohibiting the recommendation of psychotropic drugs by school personnel

Policy adopted: May 11, 2009