

SCREENING/TESTING OF STUDENTS (And Treatment of Mental Disorders)

School personnel are prohibited from requiring a student to submit to any psychiatric or psychological methods or procedures or any test regarding a student's behavior without prior written permission from the parents or guardians (or the student if eighteen or older) and prior written disclosure as to the disposition of the results of the testing.

School personnel are encouraged to discuss concerns about a student's behavior with the parent or legal guardian of such student and such discussions may include a suggestion by school personnel that the parent or legal guardian speak with an appropriate health care professional.

School personnel are prohibited from recommending or requiring the use of a psychotropic drug for any student. Psychotropic medications are substances that affect brain chemicals related to mood and behavior (as defined by the National Institute of Mental Health).

Certificated school personnel are encouraged to be knowledgeable about psychiatric or psychological methods and procedures but shall not be involved in any diagnosis, assessment or treatment of any type of mental disorder or disability unless appropriately certified. In accordance with state law, school personnel including certified school psychologists are not authorized to practice psychotherapy or utilize any psychiatric or psychological procedure outside of or beyond their area of training, experience or competence.

Psychological tests shall be administered to students only by appropriately certified school personnel employed for this purpose or by interns under their supervision. Adherence to this policy shall insure quality psychological services and shall protect the educational rights, dignity and privacy of students and parents.

Any psychological data/assessment results gathered by appropriately certified school personnel will be considered as part of a body of evidence and used exclusively to make decisions regarding the student's educational programming.

The giving of parental permission for evaluation in anticipation of a special education staffing and possible provision of services for a student with a disability and any subsequent approval for the provision of such services is governed by state and federal law and is outside the scope of this policy. This policy is in addition to and does not supersede any other legal rights or obligations of parents and students.

Ordinary classroom instruction, activities and techniques involving the approved curriculum which teach about psychological or psychiatric methods or procedures shall be permissible and considered outside the scope of this policy. It is understood that there is a significant difference between practicing therapy and providing activities that may be therapeutic in nature. In all cases, care must be exercised to protect the privacy rights of students.

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CROSS REFS.: GCS, Professional Research and Publishing
ILBA, District Program Assessments
ILBB, State Program Assessments
JRA/JRC, Student Records/Release of Information on Students
LC, Relations with Education Research Agencies