

480 - Medical Recommendation Policy



The purpose of this policy is to help school personnel understand legal restrictions in providing information and observations about students in an appropriate manner.

School personnel may:

1. Provide information and observations to a student's parents or guardians about that student, including observations and concerns with regard to progress, health and wellness, social interactions, and behavior.
2. Communicate this information and observations among each other as necessary for appropriate student guidance.
3. Refer students to other appropriate school personnel or school policy which may include referrals and communication with a school counselor or other mental health professional who is certified and working within the school system.
4. With adequate knowledge of the student, complete a behavioral health evaluation form when requested by a student's parents or guardians to provide information to a licensed physician.

School personnel may not:

1. Recommend to a parent or guardian that their child take or continue to take psychotropic medication;
2. Require that a student take or continue to take psychotropic medication as a condition for attending school;
3. Recommend that a parent or guardian seek or use any type of psychiatric or psychological treatment for their child;
4. Conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, evaluation, or assessment of a child, except as provided for and in compliance with the standards established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and its amendments; or
5. Make a child abuse or neglect report to authorities, including the Division of Child and Family Services, solely or primarily on the basis that a parent or guardian refuses to consent to a psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral health evaluation, or behavioral treatment of a child, including the administration of psychotropic drugs to a child.

An exception can be made only if failure to take action would result in a serious, imminent risk to the child's safety or the safety of others.

Notwithstanding, but forgoing a school counselor or other mental health professional acting in accordance with Title 58, Chapter 60, Mental Health Professional Practice Act, or licensed through the State Board of Education, working within the school system may:

1. Recommend, but not require, a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child;

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2. Recommend, but not require, psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment of a child;
3. Conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, evaluation, or assessment of a child in accordance with 53A-13-302; and
4. Provide to parents or guardians, upon the specific request of the parents or guardians, a list of three or more healthcare professionals or providers, including licensed physicians, psychologists, or other health care specialists.

George Washington Academy will provide for training of appropriate school personnel on this policy as well as provide notice that intentional violation of this policy is cause for disciplinary action.

This policy is not intended to discourage general and normal discourse that is not expressly prohibited by this policy between school personnel and a student's parents or legal guardians.