

MONONA GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy 456

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

I. Program Scope and Purpose

The Monona Grove School District has a responsibility to provide an optimal environment for the intellectual, emotional, social and physical development of its students from early childhood through 12th grade. We are vitally interested in assisting students who experience or are at risk of experiencing behavioral, physical or emotional problems. We believe that support programs should be prevention focused rather than reactive in nature. Further, we recognize that in order to effectively assist students it is necessary to involve and work collaboratively with teachers, administrators, family members and the broader community.

One program that is specifically designated to address these issues among students through the use of prevention and intervention measures is the Student Assistance Program (SAP). This program constitutes a dimension of the comprehensive school health curriculum. The district's goal for the SAP is to provide a comprehensive program that results in resilient and successful life-long learners. This program provides assistance in the areas of safety and self-protective behaviors, conflict resolution, alcohol, tobacco and drug use, health, stress management, human relationships and emotional growth and development.

One role of the SAP is to provide services for the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. The Monona Grove School District recognizes that the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a serious concern and may interfere with a student's physical health, social and emotional development, and academic achievement. Without intervention the progressive use of alcohol and other drugs may result in chemical dependency.

The school, along with parents/guardians and community members, has a role to play in helping students become healthy, resilient and life-long learners. A primary objective of the SAP is to be helpful and supportive to students and their families by working with parents/guardians and community members to provide relevant resources, interventions, and logical consequences for dangerous and/or illegal behaviors. We recognize that the SAP is limited in its function as it provides prevention and early intervention services relative to a range of student concerns. When it is determined that more intensive services are necessary it is the responsibility of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to see that appropriate services are provided.

II. Program Components

The SAP for students may include the following components:

- A. Training in basic physical and mental health concepts for district employees in order to raise awareness of the problems students may experience and the signs that may indicate potential and existing problems.
- B. Procedures for identification, referral and screening of students who may be experiencing problems.
- C. Development and implementation of prevention/intervention programs for students in grades K-12, which include appropriate information and skills to aid students in making responsible decisions (e.g., support groups, individual short-term counseling, peer mediation).
- D. SAP teams that assist in decision-making and provide recommendations for action when a student's behavior and/or achievement indicates possible mental and/or physical health problems including chemical abuse/dependency.
- E. Operational procedures that provide fair, appropriate and logical consequences for students engaging in dangerous or illegal behaviors as well as necessary assistance to students and their families.
- F. Guidelines for protecting student confidentiality in accordance with district policy and state law.
- G. Collaborative partnerships with community agencies and parents/guardians for the treatment of mental health, physical health, alcohol and other drugs, and/or delinquency issues.
- H. Referrals to outside agencies for appropriate assessment and interventions.

III. Program Guidelines

The SAP will:

- A. Operate within the Board of Education policies and local, state, and federal laws and regulations and cooperate; and
- B. Coordinate with other established community resources dealing with similar issues.

LEGAL REFERENCES: 118.24(2)(f)
118.126

CROSS REFERENCES: Board Policy 505.1, Student Records

BOARD APPROVAL: March 14, 2001