

## **Medical Recommendations by School Personnel to Parents Policy**

### 1. Purpose:

To clarify for school personnel and parents/guardians the recommendations or directions that school personnel may make or give to parents/guardians about seeing health care professionals or using specific medications for their children.

### 2. Policy:

2.1. School personnel may provide information and observations to parents/guardians about their children. Such information or reports may include observations and concerns in the following area:

- 2.1.1. progress
- 2.1.2. health and wellness
- 2.1.3. social interactions
- 2.1.4. behavior
- 2.1.5. topics consistent with the Utah Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (UCA 53A-13-302)

2.2. School personnel may communicate information and observations between school personnel regarding a child.

2.3. In accordance with Vista guidelines and procedures, school personnel may refer students to other appropriate personnel and agents, including referrals and communication with a school counselor working within the school.

2.4. School personnel may consult or use appropriate health care professionals in the event of an emergency while the student is at school consistent with student emergency information provided at student enrollment.

2.5. With the exception of school counselors as outlined in section 2.7, school personnel may not:

- 2.5.1. recommend to a parent/guardian that a child take or continue to take a psychotropic medication
- 2.5.2. require that a child take or continue to take a psychotropic medication as a condition for attending school
- 2.5.3. recommend that a parent/guardian seek or use a type of psychiatric or psychological treatment for a child
- 2.5.4. conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, or assessment of a child except where this conflicts with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

2.6. In compliance with State Law (UCA 62A-4a-403), school personnel are required to report suspected child abuse, however; unless failure to take action would present a serious, imminent risk to the child's safety or the safety of others; school personnel may not make a child abuse or neglect report to authorities solely or primarily on the basis that a parent or guardian refuses to consent to:

2.6.1. a psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment for a child, including the administration of a psychotropic medication to a child

2.6.2. a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child.

2.7. 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:

2.7.1. recommend, but not require, a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child

2.7.2. recommend, but not require, psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment for a child

2.7.3. conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, or assessment of a child in accordance with the Utah Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

2.7.4. provide to a parent/guardian, upon the specific request of the parent/guardian, a list of three or more health care professionals or providers, including licensed physicians, psychologists, or other health specialists.

2.8. Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as discouraging general communication not prohibited by this policy between school personnel and a student's parent/guardian.