INSTRUCTION

Substance Abuse Programs - Procedure

If any actions taken by staff in dealing with student use of alcohol and the use and abuse of controlled illegal, addictive or harmful substances including anabolic steroids will have as their first concern the welfare of the student involved and the other students in the school. Although a helping relationship rather than an investigative and punitive approach will be emphasized, necessary and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken when laws or school regulations are violated. Law enforcement agencies will be called upon for investigative and consultative assistance where illegal drug or alcohol activity has occurred.

Prevention

When the scope of problems indicates sufficient need, prevention programs shall focus on classroom instruction, guidance services and the school climate.

Instruction

This dimension of prevention programs, if implemented shall focus on:

A. The effects of addictive substances such as alcohol, drugs and nicotine upon the body.
B. Skill development related to self esteem, goal-setting, decision-making, conflict management, problem-solving, refusal and communication.

Guidance Services

When the problem is sufficient and financial resources are available, guidance staff shall meet with students, individually and in small groups, to supplement addictive substance prevention, instruction and skill development. Similarly, guidance staff will also assist parents to maximize the prevention efforts of the school.

School Climate

A facilitative school environment can help students to achieve in a productive manner (academically, socially and emotionally). To this end, the school may encourage the formation of education and/or prevention promotions that increase the awareness of the deleterious effects of substance abuse. Student support groups, if formed, shall assist students concerned about their own substance abuse, students living in families suffering from substance abuse, and students concerned about the substance abuse of someone else.

Intervention

The goal of an intervention program shall be to eliminate use of alcohol and the use and abuse of controlled, illegal, addictive or harmful substances including anabolic steroids abuse by students.

In-service will be provided for faculty and staff to the extent financially feasible and if the scope of problems indicate that resources are best diverted from other programs and directed to this purpose. Important aspects of in-service training will include dimensions of the family illness and dynamics of the addiction process; enabling behaviors; intervention techniques; children in chemically dependent families; student experimentation, abuse and dependency; parental involvement and community resources; prevention issues and strategies; treatment and aftercare support; and implementation of the program into the classroom/building.

Staff roles for an intervention program may include such activities as:

A. Administrators, counselors, selected staff and nurse meet as needed for the purpose of identifying any student(s) who may be in need of assistance. Such staff shall be sensitive to identifying symptoms of substance abuse.

   Student(s) may be referred to a team, consisting of school staff members designated by the principal.

B. Such a team may meet regularly to review referrals; confer with students and, if warranted, counselors, administrators and/or parents; collect data; make recommendations for services; and maintain a confidential system of record keeping. Parents will be involved before any action is taken.

C. Students returning to school from a community inpatient or outpatient treatment program may be given aftercare support by such a team. Primary aftercare responsibility for students returning from a community treatment program rests with the student, parent and community treatment program personnel. School staff, the student, parent(s) and community treatment personnel will work cooperatively to facilitate successful assimilation back to school.
Corrective Action

If a student appears at school or at a school-sponsored function demonstrating behavior which indicates that he/she may be under the influence of addictive substances and/or admits to an administrator that he/she is under the influence of addictive substances, the school will take the following action:

A. The parents will be notified to arrange for appropriate treatment.

B. If the student's illegal use of addictive substances is confirmed, the school administration may request the assistance of a law enforcement official in investigating the source of the addictive substance.

C. Appropriate school disciplinary action will be taken.

If school authorities find a student in possession of addictive substances at school, the addictive substances will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement officials for investigation and disposal. Appropriate school disciplinary action will be taken by a school administrator regardless of law enforcement action.

If a school administrator receives information concerning sales and use of addictive substances outside of school, the information will be reported to law enforcement officials for their investigation.

Cross-Reference:
Board Policy 5203  Staff Assistance Program
Board Policy 3200  Student Rights and Responsibilities

Legal References:
RCW  
28A.210.310  Prohibition on use of tobacco products on school property.
28A.170.075  Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention
20 U.S.C. 3171 et seq.  Drug-free Schools and Community Act

Adoption Date: March 14, 2012