

# 504: Recommendations by School Personnel to Parents Policy

## 1. Purpose:

To ensure all St George Academy faculty and staff adhere to the same process and procedures regarding open communication with parents.

## 2. Procedures:

2.1 SGA personnel may communicate information and/or observations to a parent about their student in regard to:

- a) Academic Progress
- b) Observed Behaviors and
- c) Social interactions with peers

2.2 School personnel are prohibited from offering medical or therapeutic diagnoses or advice to parents regarding their student.

2.3 School personnel should refer students to the Dean of Students or member of the Administration immediately if the school employee determines that:

- a) Student is experiencing emotional or physical crisis
- b) Student indicates they intend to harm themselves or others

2.4 SGA Administration will then:

- a) Follow the procedures outlined in the school's behavioral framework
- b) Notify parents of the referral and reason thereof
- c) Take appropriate action such as;
  - i. Referring student and parents to an appropriate prevention service
  - ii. Meet with parents to discuss the supports the school can implement for the student's health, wellness and academic success
- d) If the situation is an emergency, Administration will take appropriate preventative action that may include:
  - i. Immediate removal of student from school premises by parent or guardian
  - ii. Alerting student's emergency contacts if parent or guardian cannot be reached
  - iii. Alerting local law enforcement, school resource officer or medical emergency services
- e) Administration will keep a written record of the incident until the student graduates from a secondary institution

2.5 Actions prohibited by school personnel in regard to Utah code [53G-9-203](#):

2.5.1 School personnel may not require students to engage in specific treatment or consume specific medication, including:

- i. Recommending to a parent that a student take or continue to take a certain psychotropic medication
- ii. Requiring that a student take or continue to take a certain psychotropic medication in order to attend school
- iii. Recommending to a parent that a student engage in a particular psychological or psychiatric treatment program
- iv. Conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, or assessment of a child, except where this Subsection (4)(d) conflicts with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq., and its subsequent amendments
- v. Report a child abuse or neglect report to authorities based primarily on a parent's refusal to consent to a psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment for their student, including the administration of a psychotropic medication to the student, a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of the student
- vi. As an exception, school personnel may file a report that would otherwise be prohibited under Subsection (5) if failure to take the action described under Subsection (5) would present a serious, imminent risk to the student's safety or the safety of others

2.5.2 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, working within the school system may:

- a) recommend, but not require, a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a student
- b) recommend, but not require, psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment for a student
- c) conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, or assessment of a student in accordance with state policy
- d) provide to a parent, upon the specific request of the parent, a list of three or more health care professionals or providers, including licensed physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, or other health specialists

2.6. Training for school personnel regarding this policy will be administered yearly to all school employees before the start of each new school year.