

504: Health and Wellness Policy (Recommendations by School Personnel to Parents)

1. Purpose:

To ensure all St George Academy faculty and staff adhere to the same process and procedures regarding open communication with parents. St George Academy is committed to the optimal development of each student. This policy outlines the model approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice lifelong healthy habits that promote physical, mental, and social health.

2. Definitions:

2.1 "Health care professional" means a physician, physician assistant, nurse, dentist, or mental health therapist.

2.2 "School personnel" means a school district or charter school employee, including a licensed, part-time, contract, or non-licensed employee.

3. Procedure:

3.1 School personnel may provide information and observations to a student's parent about that student, including observations and concerns in the following areas:

3.1.1 Academic progress;

3.1.2 Health and wellness;

3.1.3 Social interactions;

3.1.4 Report suspected child abuse consistent with [Utah Code Section 80-2-602](#);

3.1.5 Comply with applicable state and local health department laws, rules and policies and;

3.1.6 Conduct evaluations and assessments consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

3.2 School personnel may not"

3.2.1 Offer medical or therapeutic diagnoses or advice to parents regarding their student;

3.2.2 Recommend to a parent that a child take or continue to take a psychotropic medication;

*Adapted from State Model Health and Wellness Policy
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3.2.3 Require that a student take or continue to take a psychotropic medication as a condition for attending school;

3.2.4 Recommend that a parent seek or use a type of psychiatric or psychological treatment for a child;

3.2.5 Conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, or assessment of a child, except where this Subsection conflicts with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq., and its subsequent amendments;

3.2.6 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 refuses to consent to a psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment for a child, including the administration of a psychotropic medication to a child or a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child.

3.3 Notwithstanding Subsection 3.2, school personnel may make a report that would otherwise be prohibited under Subsection 3.2 if failure to take the action would present a serious, imminent risk to the child's safety or the safety of others.

3.4 Notwithstanding Subsection 3.2, 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:

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

3.4.2 Recommend, but not require, psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment for a child;

3.4.3 Conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, or assessment of a child in accordance with Utah Code [53E-9-203](#);

3.4.4 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.

4. Referrals:

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

4.1.1 A student is experiencing emotional or physical crisis;

4.1.2 A student indicates they intend to harm themselves or others.

4.2 SGA Administration will then follow the procedures outlined in the school's behavioral framework and notify parents of the referral and reason thereof.

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[Utah Code 53G-9-203](#)

4.3 SGA will also take appropriate action such as;

4.3.1 Referring student and parents to an appropriate prevention service;

4.3.2 Meeting with parents to discuss the supports the school can implement for the student's health, wellness and academic success.

4.4 If the situation is an emergency, SGA Administration will take appropriate preventative action that may include:

4.4.1 Immediate removal of student from school premises by parent or guardian;

4.4.2 Alerting student's emergency contacts if parent or guardian cannot be reached;

4.4.3 Alerting local law enforcement, school resource officer or medical emergency services.

4.5 Administration will keep a written record of the incident until the student's year of graduation has passed.

5. School Personnel Training and Expectations:

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

5.2 Training will include that indicating that an intentional violation of this policy is cause for disciplinary action consistent with local school board or charter school policy and under Utah Code [53G-11-513](#).