

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Apple Creek Public School District will provide a Student Assistance Program for students who are experiencing physical or emotional problems that may produce a negative effect on the student's performance in school. The purpose of the program is to assist students in obtaining help to resolve such problems in an effective and confidential manner. This program recognized that the primary obligation to seek assistance and to resolve the problem rests with the student and his/her parent or guardian.

The Board recognized that a wide range of problems that are not directly associated with the school may have an effect on the student's performance in school. The problems may involve physical illness, mental or emotional illness, alcohol abuse or alcoholism, drug abuse or dependency, or family problems such as divorce, separation, financial difficulties, job loss or illness or death of a family member or close friend.

The Student Assistance Program assures students that if such personal problems are the cause of unsatisfactory behavior or performance they will receive careful consideration and an offer of assistance in an effective and confidential manner. This service will provide information for counseling and treatment referral so that students may seek and get counseling on chemical dependency, physical or emotional problems, or other personal problems at any time without fear of reprisal and with assurance of the confidentiality of the counseling. Confidentiality will be maintained so long as state or federal law does not require disclosure to parent or guardian. Providing information for referral or treatment when needed should be a constructive and not a punitive action.

Program Goal

1. To assist students who have problems that may affect their school performance by providing confidential, prompt, and diversified assistance to help resolve individual and/or family problems.
2. To motivate students to seek help at an early stage and get confidential assistance through qualified professional referrals. The goal then is to restore productivity through early identification of problems and to maintain a school atmosphere conducive to learning.

Program Objectives

1. To provide a confidential, flexible, competent, and sensitive program of assistance to meet the needs of troubled students on an individual basis.
2. To provide students with accurate information regarding known referral sources.
3. To provide in-service training for teachers that will focus on the teacher's role in relation to troubled students.

The Principal is instructed to develop procedures and regulations that will achieve the goals and objectives of this policy.

Teachers and administrators will implement this policy in such a manner that no student will have his or her school career adversely affected by the use of the Student Assistance Program. This policy, and any related procedures will not alter or supersede the normal application of disciplinary or due process procedures.

District expenditures, in addition to the personnel costs associated with operating the program, will be limited to the cost of the initial screening for any referral of a student. The District will not hire any additional personnel to operate this program, but will use existing counselors and administrators.

Cross Reference: Policy FHCF Drug Use/Abuse

Legal Reference: NDCC Ch. 15-21.1 Chemical Abuse Prevention Programs

REFERENCE: 07/92

POLICY ADOPTED: 26 Feb 96
POLICY AMENDED: 14 Aug 09