

Psychological Screening/Testing Of Students

The Board recognizes the need for psychological examination and testing concerning certain students from time to time in the school environment. The terms “psychiatric or psychological examination or test” in this context shall mean a method of obtaining information about attitudes, habits, traits, opinions, beliefs or feelings. The term “psychological method or procedure” is to have the same meaning as “practice of psychology” as defined by the General Assembly in C.R.S. 12-43-303(1),(2). It is the policy of the Board that only those persons appropriately certified or licensed, pursuant to the Medical Practices Act, C.R.S. 12-36-101 *et seq.* be permitted to expose pupils to any psychiatric or psychological method or procedure involving diagnosis, assessment or treatment of any emotional, behavioral, or mental disorder.

These actions may be carried out only after prior written notice to the parents of the pupils in question and the acquisition of parent consent, unless the student is of legal age to give his informed and written consent. This policy applies to all educational programs and courses of instruction or study offered by the district.

Psychological tests shall be administered to students only by appropriately certified school personnel employed for this purpose or by interns under their supervision. In accordance with state law, school personnel including certified school psychologists are not authorized to practice psychotherapy or utilize any psychiatric or psychological procedure outside of or beyond their area of training, experience or competence.

The giving of parental permission for evaluation in anticipation of a special education staffing and possible provision of services for a handicapped student and any subsequent approval for the provision of such services is governed by state and federal law and is outside the scope of this policy. The district adheres to these regulations and procedures. Therefore, this policy is in addition to and does not supercede any other legal rights or obligations of parents and students.

Crisis intervention as a method or technique used by certified school psychologists in cases of attempted suicide, death threat, losses, and cases of imminent danger to the student or others is permissible and is outside the scope of this policy.

Ordinary classroom instruction, activities and techniques involving the approved curriculum which teach about psychological or psychiatric method or procedures shall be permissible and considered outside the scope of this policy. It is understood that there is a significant difference between practicing therapy and providing activities that may be therapeutic in nature. In all cases, care must be exercised to protect the privacy rights of students.

Adopted: January 21, 1992

Revised: May 2000

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 12-43-202
C.R.S. 22-32-109.2
C.R.S. 12-43-303
C.R.S. 12-36-101 *et seq*
C.R.S. 22-1-123

CROSS REFS.: JLD, Counseling, Mental Health, and Social Services for Students
JLF, Reporting Child Abuse