Fridley Public Schools
A World-Class Community of Learners

506.1 STUDENT CHEMICAL MISUSE

I. Purpose

The school board recognizes the serious problem in society with the use and/or misuse of chemicals. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the school district intervenes in chemical misuse situations to protect the student's health and to support rehabilitation of the student.

II. General Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the school board that the school district shall strive to promote the academic, social, and physical well being of youth. School district staff will also take appropriate steps to protect the students' best interests while complying with state and federal laws dealing with chemical abuse. The health and education of the student shall be of greater concern than punishment for breaking the rules.

III. Primary Intervention Activities

The school will take the following primary intervention steps that will provide information to students and assist them in making responsible decisions regarding chemical use.

A. Promote a caring school community, which has empathy, compassion, and communication extending between students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

B. Promote an emotionally healthy classroom, which includes emphasis on the development of positive self-concept, coping skills, interpersonal relationships, values, decision-making, and assertiveness.

C. Provide a health curriculum, which includes emphasis on decision-making for good health and the responsibility to care for self.

D. Integrate prevention concepts and strategies into appropriate curriculum areas.

E. Provide constructive activity opportunities for student self-development and creativity, which accommodates the individual student needs, interests and skill levels.

F. Recognize the needs of students experiencing chemical use problems, as well as the family issues that may be involved.

G. Plan and implement the responsible use of groups which provide students the opportunity to examine personal chemical use patterns and positive life style choices.

H. Provide activities to help improve parent/student communications and family support of the student's efforts toward rehabilitation.

I. Provide resources in strengthening skills and decisions for students and their families.

J. Cooperate with local law enforcement personnel, health care providers and/or public agencies to improve school services and information options for students and parents.

IV. Reports of Suspected Chemical Abuse

A. A teacher or other staff person who knows or has reason to believe that a student is using, possessing, or transferring alcohol or a controlled substance while on the school premises or while involved in school-related activities, shall immediately notify the school principal, assistant principal, counselor, or nurse. If the students exhibits symptoms of intoxication or being under the influence of drugs, the staff person shall accompany the student directly to the health office or the principal's office. Other staff members shall be asked to assist as needed. The principal or designee shall confer with the student, notify the parents, and initiate school steps to assist the student. Police and/or medical emergency help may be called first if the principal or nurse determines this is merited. The parents shall be notified as soon as possible

B. Within 5-10 days, a school support team of appropriate staff members will be convened by the principal or designee to review the report(s) about the student and plan appropriate follow-up steps.

V. Early Intervention and Referral

After the referral has been documented and reviewed, the team shall consider the following options:

A. Parents will be called by the principal, assistant principal, or counselor, to inform them of the observed behavior.

B. Parents and/or the student will be invited to meet with school staff and/or chemical abuse resource workers.

C. Parents will be encouraged and advised to initiate an evaluation of chemical abuse or dependency at a chemical dependency treatment center. Staff will assist parents in

finding and contacting agencies to conduct the evaluation and/or provide treatment and care.

D. If parents or the student refuse the committee recommendation of evaluation or treatment, another form of intervention will be considered and implemented as needed to assist the student, in accordance with legal requirements. Referral to child protection will be considered, per legal guidelines and mandates.

If the student seeks help for a problem with chemical abuse, the above options will be considered.

VI. School Support for Students in Care/After Care

A. Members of the school support team will maintain communications with the treatment program staff and the student's parents. Steps will be initiated to coordinate and implement the student's education plan, and provide for alternate instruction, academic credit and other educational support activities as deemed appropriate.

B. A support system will be planned for students returning to school after completion of a treatment program. Community resource options will be identified and shared with the parent/student. School support activities will be utilized to help the student transition back into the school community. School support groups and/or after care groups will be an option for the student.

C. The school support team will evaluate the effectiveness of school programs for primary intervention, reporting, and support systems for students in treatment/after care. The support team will provide staff training in:

1. Individual chemical use patterns and related problems.

2. Strategies for prevention, intervention, treatment, and after care.

3. Identification skills and reporting and education strategies.

4. Legal requirements for school response and intervention steps.

5. Monitoring and evaluating school climate and levels of student problems with chemicals.

VII. School/Community Coordination

A. The Middle School and High School principals will periodically convene a joint staff/community advisory group to review student chemical use/abuse in general, the effectiveness of this policy and school procedures, and recommend changes and/or

improvements to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will be responsible for making recommendations to the School Board.

B. Each year, the school principal will establish a school support team that will provide student chemical abuse assessment and/or intervention. The team will include a teacher, administrator, counselor, nurse, and other appropriate staff. The team will be responsible for reviewing referrals, documenting student needs, and recommending intervention steps for students as may be needed. The team will seek the help of, and collaborate with, local law enforcement, other health providers and public agencies in the community. Legal requirements for sharing data and student records will be followed.

Legal References:
Minn. Stat. 13.02, subd. 8 (Student Records Regarding Health)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
29 U.S.C. 794 et seq. (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:
Revised as Policy 8.201
Revised as Policy 8.204
Revised as Policy 506.1 June 18, 2002