

STUDENT PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Prior to diagnosing, assessing, or treating a student by use of any psychiatric or psychological method or procedure, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student shall:

1. Be notified in writing about the anticipated diagnosis, assessment, or treatment;
2. Be given the name and telephone number of a professional staff member from whom further information may be solicited; and
3. Give written consent.

The above provisions for parental notice, information, and consent shall not apply in the following circumstances:

1. The student has consented to receive mental health services and the student is 15 years of age or older (pursuant to Colorado law);
2. The student has sought substance abuse assistance, unless the student has given written consent for disclosure to his or her parents (pursuant to federal and Colorado law);
3. The student is 18 years of age or older, unless the diagnosis, assessment, or treatment is part of the District's formal evaluation and programming pursuant to the Comprehensive Plan for Special Education Services (under federal and Colorado law);
4. The particular support services are being offered in response to a crisis or trauma affecting multiple students at a school and it is not practicable to contact all parents prior to offering psychological support services; or
5. An emergency has arisen affecting an individual student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) cannot be reached by telephone prior to beginning to respond to the situation.

General Information to Parents and Guardians

Each school shall include in its annual package of orientation materials information concerning when notice will be given and parental consent sought pursuant to policy JLDA and this regulation. The information shall include those exceptions enumerated in this regulation and shall further notify parents that they may exclude their children (unless the student is otherwise authorized under state or federal law to seek such services

on his or her own) from psychological support services in cases of crisis or trauma affecting multiple students by giving advance written notice to the school principals. Parents should also be informed of ongoing resources for assistance in the schools and the procedures for students to become involved in such programs.

Crisis or Trauma Situations

The building principal or, in his or her absence, the principal's designee, shall determine if a crisis or trauma exists sufficient to allow psychological support services to be offered without prior parental permission. The principal or designee shall also determine if it is practicable to make efforts to notify parents prior to offering support to students. In making this decision, the principal or designee may consider the number of students involved and should consider the immediacy and magnitude of the crisis. The principal or designee may consult with the District's psychologists and others in considering the need to proceed without delay. When practicable, the efforts to notify parents should be made. Such efforts may include written communications, when time allows, or telephone or personal contacts.

Adopted: August 4, 1992
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Douglas County School District Re. 1, Castle Rock, Colorado