

STUDENTS

Student Assistance Program

I. Introduction

- A. The board of Independent School District #2448 recognizes that there are many forces outside of school which can interfere with the learning and personal growth of the student. Stress, depression, suicide, and chemical misuse and dependency are among the many negative factors which create situations of high risk for our young people

A combination of policies is necessary to deter negative behaviors (and manifestations of high risk conditions as well as to provide assistance when the circumstances indicate outside help is the best alternative. The MCW Disciplinary Policy outlines penalties associated with chemical use, as well as other overtly negative behaviors as school, on school property, and/or at school activities. The purpose of this policy is to outline the type of help the District will provide to students

- B. The School Board, through its support of programs such as Peer Helping and the K-12 prevention programs, endeavors to promote a healthy learning and living environment for staff and students alike. This policy is an effort on the part of the districts to coordinate resources to provide a helping framework for students.

II. Eligibility

- A. Current Students in grades kindergarten through grade twelve attending Martin County West Public Schools

III. Guidelines

- A. In-House Support Services

1. The school will continue to provide and enhance a strong, positive support environment for students K-12. Some of the ways to provide this include the following:
 - a. Health Awareness Day
 - b. K-12 health curriculum which includes topics on stress, suicide, chemical misuse, sex education, child abuse and other social concerns
 - c. A junior high and high school course
 - d. An active, cross-age, Peer-Helping program
 - e. An identified referral system which includes when and where to seek help in time of crisis
 - f. An enlightened staff and administration who help to enhance self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-worth concepts
 - g. "Skills for Adolescence" in grade 7

h. Appropriate licensed staff will facilitate these programs

B. Referral Services

1. The school will provide to students/parents the name and telephone number of Student Assistance in providing evaluation and referral information for physical, mental, family, chemical, and sexual problems. Currently the district cooperates with the assistance program coordinate by Human Services of Martin County. A list of telephone numbers of other helping professionals is available and visible to all students, and any competent professionals are acceptable.
2. Students are encouraged to voluntarily contact the Student Assistance Program. The school may, in some cases, insist on a referral if the problems are significantly affecting school behavior and/or outcomes. If chemical use is involved, cooperation by the student and parent with such an evaluation may be in lieu of more serious consequences as outlined in the Disciplinary Policy
3. Students may contact the program through an administrator, social worker, or counselor, or they may contact the program in a completely confidential process by simply identifying themselves by name and school to the contact person.

C. Response Plan for Suicides

A school/community plan that responds to suicide issues will be developed. It will include problem identification by school or parents and referral to the appropriate crisis resources. Planning and implementation will involve educators, students, parents, and the community.

The Employee Assistance Program will be maintained and enhanced to provide support services for the school staff to deal with their own problems and issues.

IV. Terms

- A. Martin County West will pay for the initial cost of a school referral evaluation, if not covered by the individual's insurance.
- B. The school will provide transportation to or mileage for the initial visit as described above.
- C. The school will provide for Homebound Instruction as necessary during a period of inpatient treatment