

Policy of the Lancaster Board of Education

Students

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PHILOSOPHY

The Lancaster Community School District believes that healthy youth are primarily the responsibility of the home and community, but the school shares in that responsibility. We also believe social, emotional, and physical problems often interfere with school behavior, student learning, and the fullest possible development of each student.

Therefore, the Student Assistance Program of the Lancaster Community Schools will identify, educate, and assist students affected by these problems. The Student Assistance Program will operate in accordance with School Board policies as well as local, state, and federal laws.

POLICY ON STUDENT USE AND ABUSE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

The Lancaster Community School District recognizes that chemical dependency is an illness which is preceded by the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs. Such use and abuse negatively affects many aspects of a student's life, including school performance. Problems associated with chemical dependency exist in our society. Lancaster Community Schools recognizes that some students are in need of direct intervention for problems associated with chemical dependency. Thus, we believe that all students and parents would benefit from increased educational awareness.

The Lancaster Community School District believes that the school is an effective setting for dealing with alcohol and other drug abuse. The staff must be concerned, caring and trained in the areas of alcohol and other drug dependencies. The school district feels that in order to have a successful program the school, parents, and community must work together to assist students in gaining information about chemicals and chemical use in our society, to discover healthy ways to enjoy life, and to develop skills and strengths necessary to confront the challenges of youth.

In addition, the Lancaster Community School District recognizes the importance of providing a school environment that will strongly discourage student involvement or potential involvement in alcohol and other drug abuse activities. While the emphasis of the Board of Education on student alcohol and other drug abuse is based on a caring and helping attitude, there is further recognition that the illegal or inappropriate use of alcohol, narcotic drugs, and other controlled substances constitutes a hazard to the positive development of students. Therefore, appropriate measures will be taken against students who are involved in such activities and who refuse to accept appropriate help.

The development of a chemical dependency program within the school setting requires that various groups assume identified responsibilities. The Board of Education is responsible for approving the chemical dependency program, providing the necessary funding, and reviewing the results on an annual basis. Included in this responsibility is the dissemination of pertinent information to students, employees, and the community at-large. The administration has overall responsibility for the development and implementation of a school chemical dependency program. The certified staff is responsible for assisting in program development and for implementing the adopted program. Students are responsible for cooperating in the implementation of the school chemical dependency program.

Thus, the Lancaster Community School District has established a program to provide education, assistance and support for students affected by chemical dependency and drug abuse related problems operating under the following guidelines:

1. The main responsibility for operating the program will be in the hands of the District Coordinator who will interpret the district's policy to student's, staff, parents/guardians, and the community. Sharing the responsibility will be the Building Coordinator who will assess the nature and scope of alcohol and drug problems in students referred, and make recommendations for the appropriate form of assistance.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the District Policy/Procedure Committee to develop procedures consistent with this policy. The District Coordinator will provide the necessary orientation and training of staff persons, and along with the Building Coordinators, will annually evaluate the progress of the program, its effectiveness, and make reports and recommendations to the Board of Education.
3. An essential feature of the program is that students, along with their families, are encouraged to contact staff, (i.e., staff refers to any individual involved with the SAP program), the building Principal, or the building contact person regarding problems with alcohol and other drugs, with the assurance that such contacts will be handled confidentially.

4. No records of a student's participation in the program will become a part of the permanent record. A student's participation in the program, including conversations he/she may have with staff members or the building contact person, will be held strictly confidential, as required by federal confidentiality regulations and Wisconsin Statute (e.g., 118.25, 118.126).
5. At all times it is the prerogative of the student and his/her family to accept or reject the recommendation or assistance of the contact person. Regardless of whether a student accepts or rejects assistance, it still remains his/her responsibility to maintain satisfactory or acceptable levels of performance and conduct, or face such legitimate disciplinary action as may be corrective and warranted.
6. The use, possession, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages in or on school property, or at school events is prohibited.
7. Prescription medications are exceptions to stated school policy on alcohol and other medications when used by the individual for whom they were prescribed, and in the manner and amount prescribed.

Cross Reference: Student Assistance Program Procedures 456.01-Rule

Adopted: January 11, 1989