



Section: Pupils

Title: Alcohol and Other Drugs

Adopted: 5-15-74

*Revised: 12-18-74
2-16-89*

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A Realistic Viewpoint

Drug abuse is not a problem which is new. It has been with us for many centuries providing certain people a pathway of escape from reality. Currently there are many drugs that can provide such an escape, but more importantly, many of these drugs contribute much to good medical care.

The greatest problem which faces us is the attitude of many toward the value of drugs and the problems of abuse. This problem of abuse is especially dangerous among young people.

The improper use of drugs by an ever-increasing number of young people poses a problem of major concern to our society. The ultimate solution to the problem rests in the development of human beings who can and will make wise decisions concerning drugs.

Drug abuse is a social phenomenon that is usually symptomatic of a variety of complex underlying issues, including peer pressure, family dysfunction, poor decision-making and coping skills, and lack of self-esteem and interest in productive, alternative activities. The result of adolescent involvement in the abuse of drugs and alcohol is often manifested in progressive deterioration of school and family functioning and in the adoption of self-destructive, disruptive behaviors in the school setting, in the home, and in the community at large.

Colonial Assistance and Referral Effort (C.A.R.E.)

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A multi-disciplinary intervention and referral team comprised of administrative, counseling, teaching, and support personnel has been instituted in order to provide students and families with assistance in dealing with issues related to the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs. The C.A.R.E. Team will provide outreach, support, and aftercare services within the school setting and will serve as the liaison to treatment providers within the community.

Accordingly, it is the intent of this school district to provide students with an educational program to alert them to the dangers of drug abuse and provide them with a wholesome alternative to this unfortunate practice.

Program of Education

The Colonial School District will present an articulated K through 12 program designed to satisfy the developmental needs of the various age groups.

Although a multi-discipline approach will be taken, the major emphasis will take place in the health curriculum. All resources and instructional materials will be reviewed by a committee selected by the Coordinator of Health and Physical Education and if appropriate will be recommended for use and/or implementation in our schools.

Cooperation with Parents and Community

Because of the broad based nature of the drug abuse problem, cooperation with parents, civic and religious leaders will be solicited.

Selection of Educational Materials

The Coordinator of Health and Physical Education in conjunction with other selected administrators will offer advice and assistance to the professional staff and concerned school committees as required.

- a. To act as a clearing house for material and programs that can be used by both community and student groups.*
- b. To provide suggestions and recommendations regarding resource persons, films, printed materials, etc.*

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Consent of Minor

The Colonial School District herein recognizes the requirement mandated by the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act of 1972 regarding the consent of minor. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a minor who suffers from the use of a controlled or harmful substance may given consent to furnishing of medical care or counseling related to diagnosis or treatment. The consent of the parents or legal guardian of the minor shall not be necessary to authorize medical care related to such diagnosis or treatment. The consent of the minor shall be valid and binding as if the minor had achieved his majority. Such consent shall not be voidable nor subject to later disaffirmance because of minority. School personnel who provide counseling to a minor who uses any controlled or harmful substance may, but shall not be obligated to inform parents or legal guardians of any such minor as to the treatment given or needed. However, it shall be the policy of the school district to inform and gain the active involvement of parents or guardians regarding minors who use any controlled or harmful substance, except when in the opinion of the professional staff member such involvement will impede the rehabilitation of the student.

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