**Student Mental Health and Behavioral Medication Policy**

**Policy TA6452**

**Approved: 7-9-2020**

Purpose and Philosophy

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for school personnel, in accordance with Utah Code Annotated 53A-11-605, regarding behavioral medication and psychological and/or psychiatric evaluation.

Policy

Timpanogos Academy recognizes the importance of appropriate behavioral medication and evaluation to successful school performance when authorized by parents and medical professionals.

The school also recognizes the decision to place a student on behavioral medication rests solely on the parent/guardian and coordinating physician, psychiatrist, and/or mental health professional.

This policy provides guidelines for an appropriate and responsible referral process for school personnel to address the social, behavioral, and emotional needs of students.

School Personnel May:

1. Provide information and observations to a student’s parent or guardian about a specific student such as: academic progress, health, wellness, motivation, social interactions, on‐task behavior, compliance, or topics consistent with subsection 53A‐13‐302. (53A‐13‐302 requires prior written consent before administering to a student any psychological examination, test, treatment, survey, analysis, or evaluation).
2. Share and review evidence-based literature pertaining to the use of behavioral medication as they pertain to academic performance, behavioral outcomes, and social/emotional well-being.
3. Communicate information and observations with individual members of the student’s school team regarding a specific child.
4. Refer students to appropriate school personnel and related service providers including school counselors, or other mental health professionals working within the school system.
5. Consult with and/or coordinate with health care professionals in the event of an emergency while the student is at school, consistent with the student emergency information provided at enrollment.
6. Enlist the strategies outlined in the Utah State Board of Education Least Restrictive Behavioral Interventions (LRBI) Manual.
7. Exercise their authority relating to the placement within the school or readmission of a child who may be (or has been) suspended or expelled for a violation of Section 53A‐11‐904. (53A‐11‐904‐Disruptive Student Behavior‐It is unlawful for a school‐age minor to engage in disruptive student behavior.)
8. Complete and/or participate in a behavioral health evaluation form if requested by a student’s parent or guardian to provide information to a licensed physician or mental health professional.

School Personnel Shall:

1. Report suspected child abuse and/or neglect consistent with established school policies.
2. Comply with applicable state and local health department laws, rules, and policies.
3. Conduct evaluations and assessments consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq., and its subsequent amendments.

Except as noted below, School Personnel May Not:

1. Recommend to a parent or guardian that a child takes or continues to take a psychotropic medication.
2. Require that a student take or continue to take a psychotropic medication as a condition for attending school.
3. Recommend that a parent/guardian seek or use a type of psychiatric, psychological, behavioral treatment for a child.
4. Report child abuse or neglect to authorities, including the Division of Child and Family Services, solely or primarily on the basis that a parent or guardian refuses to consent to psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment or evaluation of a child, unless failure to take the action would present a serious, imminent risk to the child’s safety or the safety of others.

School Psychologists, School Counselors, School Social Workers, or Other Mental Health Professionals May:

1. Recommend, but not require, a psychiatric, psychological, and/or behavioral health evaluation of a child.
2. Recommend, but not require, psychological and/or behavioral health treatment for a child.
3. Conduct a psychoeducational and/or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening test, evaluation, or assessment of a child in accordance with Section 53A‐13‐302. (53A‐13‐302 requires prior written consent before administering to a student any psychological examination, test, treatment, survey, analysis, or evaluation).
4. Provide to a parent or guardian, upon the specific request of the parent or guardian, a list of three or more health care professionals, (or providers), including licensed physicians, psychologists, social workers, counselors, or other mental health care providers.

Training

All school employees involved in educating students will complete training on appropriate communication regarding mental health evaluations and the use of behavioral medications. The training will also include information on disciplinary action taken for intentional violation of this policy.