

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ADOPTED: MAY 19, 2011

REVISED: MAY 12, 2011

DELAWARE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

236. STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	
1. Purpose	<p>The Board recognizes that students are faced with many emotional and social pressures that are beyond the school’s academic program. Self-destructive behaviors of certain “at risk” students have an adverse effect on the ability of all members of the school community to achieve personal and district educational goals. The purpose of the Student Assistance Program is to identify, refer, and support “at risk” students. Guidance, education, and support will be provided to students in “at risk” status through the aid of affiliated health agencies and a core team of trained personnel.</p>
2. Authority	<p>Through this policy, the Board authorizes the establishment of the Delaware Valley Student Assistance Program, the Delaware Valley Student Assistance Core Teams, and the Delaware Valley Instructional Support Core Teams.</p> <p>This policy will be implemented through the cooperative efforts of the faculty, administration, school support staff, students, parents/guardians, and community agencies of the Delaware Valley School District.</p>
Pol. 227	<p>It is the policy of this district to prevent and prohibit the possession and/or use, distribution, and/or intent of distribution of alcohol and/or controlled substances on school property, at school-sponsored events, on school buses at any school activities and enroute to and from school by any mode of travel.</p> <p>Such preventions and/or prohibition shall occur through a three-faceted program including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education. 2. Prevention. 3. Intervention.
Pol. 227, 233	<p>Violations of this policy include possession, use, sale, being under the influence, or distribution of controlled substances and/or alcohol or intent to deliver controlled substances and/or alcohol. The consequences of such violations may result in permanent expulsion from school.</p>

<p>3. Definitions</p>	<p>Assessment is an evaluation with recommendations by a professional drug and alcohol counselor or mental health therapist from a local agency. These individuals may either be employed by the district or employed by one of the local agencies.</p> <p>“At Risk” Students are those students who display behavioral patterns which may be symptoms of deeper problems caused by physical illness, social and emotional maladjustment or a troubled environment. These deeper problems may hinder students’ education and social growth. Such maladaptive behaviors may include, but are not limited to, academic difficulties, lack of attendance, dysfunctional families, acts of violence, pregnancy, and substance abuse.</p> <p>Confidentiality between students and guidance counselors, school nurses, home and school visitor, staff and support personnel shall be respected. No confidential communication will be made without the consent of the student or his/her parent/guardian unless the best interests of the student can be served only by doing so, or if the subject of that confidentiality presents a clear and present danger to the school community.</p> <p>Confiscation occurs when there is reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of controlled substances and/or alcohol. There is an obligation to search for and seize chemicals, alcohol or substances by the building administrator(s) or designee. This search will include school lockers, clothing, purses, book bags, books and other personal property. Reasonable efforts will be made to secure the student’s voluntary consent and to have the student present at the time of the search.</p> <p>Controlled Substance, Mood-Altering Substances, Drug, Drug Paraphernalia, Alcohol or Look-Alike Drug shall have the meanings given to them as defined in the act of September 27, 1961 (P.L. 1700, No. 699), known as the Pharmacy Act, or the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L. 233, No. 64), known as the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act and the act of April 14, 1951 (P.L. 90, No. 21), known as the Liquor Code. Examples include, but are not limited to, beer, wine, liquor, marijuana, hashish, chemical solvents, glue, look-alike substances, and all substances, capsules, or pills not registered with the nurse.</p> <p>Core Team, the heart of the Student Assistance Program, is the specially trained Student Assistance Team, designated by the Superintendent or designee, which will work at the school to identify and help “at risk” students. The team may be comprised of a building administrator, guidance counselor, social worker, school nurse and classroom teachers. Working closely with the group is a crisis intervention counselor who meets with students referred to the team. Students referred to the program may receive professional counseling at appropriate drug and alcohol or mental health community agencies that serve Pike County. Parents/Guardians will maintain the right to select alternate private treatment as an alternative to local agencies for services recommended by the Core Team at the parent’s/guardian’s</p>
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<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>expense.</p> <p>School Property shall include not only the actual buildings, facilities and grounds on the school campus, but also school buses, school bus stops, school parking areas, and any facility being used for a school function including school-sponsored trips.</p> <p>Staff shall be defined as any administrator, supervisor, school nurse, teacher, guidance counselor, support staff (secretaries, instructional assistants, maintenance, custodians, cafeteria staff, and drivers), or other school employees, employees of any contracted group who work with students, athletic coach or activity sponsor or other educational or medical employee employed by the Delaware Valley School District.</p> <p><u>Student Assistance Plan</u></p> <p>Each school’s Student Assistance Team in the Delaware Valley School District may consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Principal.2. Assistant principal(s).3. Guidance counselor(s).4. School nurse.5. Social worker.6. Appropriate teacher(s). <p>The function of the Student Assistance Team is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify “at risk” students.2. Provide support and advice to them through counseling and support groups.3. Contact the following agencies if the Student Assistance Team deems it necessary for outside assistance:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Social worker.b. Children and youth director (appropriate cases).c. Drug and alcohol counselor (appropriate cases).d. Private counselor (at parent’s/guardian’s request and expense).4. Ensure that the district policies are followed.5. Provide a line of communication between parents/guardians, students, and teachers. <p>The district currently offers the following services to elementary, middle and high school students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Drug and Alcohol Assessment Session:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Participation – Required, as a condition of reinstatement for all students using chemicals/alcohol or in possession of chemicals/alcohol.b. Facilitator - Drug and alcohol counselor.c. Structure - One (1) session.d. Content - Drug and alcohol questionnaire is given and used to determine the seriousness of the student’s chemical involvement. A recommendation is made regarding further action by student and family. <p>2. Mental Health Assessment Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Participation - Voluntary, as part of intervention process.b. Facilitator - Social worker.c. Structure - One (1) session.d. Content - Mental health questionnaire is given and used to determine the seriousness of the student’s “at risk” behavior. A recommendation is made regarding further action by student and family.e. The members of the Student Assistance Program (SAP) team determine the need for support groups. Team members along with members of outside agencies conduct weekly support groups to assist individual students by utilizing a team concept. Group leaders, as well as the students, provide both suggestions and support to students on a variety of issues. <p><u>Crisis Intervention Policy</u></p> <p>Each school’s Crisis Intervention Team in the Delaware Valley School District shall consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Assistant principal(s).2. Guidance counselor(s).3. Social worker(s).4. Nurse.5. Appropriate teacher(s). <p>Any teacher, student or administrator who identifies a student “at risk” will contact a member of the crisis team immediately.</p> <p>Contact the following agencies if the Crisis Intervention Team deems it necessary for outside assistance:</p>
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1. Mental health counselor.
2. Children and youth director (appropriate cases).
3. Drug and alcohol counselor (appropriate cases).

Upon referral, each building crisis team will meet to determine the student's risk level. The following course of action, according to level of risk of student, will be taken:

1. High Risk Student:

- a. Maintain constant student contact.
- b. Notify parents/guardians immediately.
- c. Contact social worker to discuss appropriate course of action; i.e. hospital commitment and/or therapy.
- d. Contact any other appropriate outside agencies.
- e. Crisis team determines to what extent instructors and staff will be made aware of student's needs.

2. Medium Risk Student:

- a. Make parent/guardian contact.
- b. Referral to an outside agency.
- c. Support through the guidance office.
- d. Follow-up with outside agencies.

3. Low Risk Student:

- a. Guidance counselor will maintain contact with students.
- b. Parental involvement is recommended.
- c. Notify significant people to aid in support such as friends, schoolmates, and teachers.

In case concerning a major crisis such as suicide, the following steps will be initiated:

1. Hold a brief meeting for teachers and counselors the first morning following the crisis.
2. Maintain the school day as normal as possible.
3. Determine if the other schools in the district need to be contacted.
4. Designate Guidance Office as central location for information and appoint a coordinator, preferably a guidance counselor.
5. Contact necessary community agencies and persons.
6. Assign a psychologist to the faculty.

7. On the first morning after crisis, contact relatives and ten (10) best friends of the victim to attempt to control suicide pacts.
8. Post notice in classrooms indicating where a student could go if s/he had difficulties with the crisis.
9. Free the coordinator during the first day.
10. By the end of the first day, attempt to identify high risk students, giving parents/guardians the CRISIS HOTLINE NUMBER.
11. The counselor provides a short biography of the victim to all psychologists that are helping so they have some knowledge of the student when counseling.
12. Have administrators, guidance counselors, and psychologist meet at the end of the first day to reflect on what happened and plan the future.

Procedure For Handling Of A Confiscated Chemical/Alcoholic Substance

Any confiscated substance will be placed in an envelope or appropriate container by the employee. An adult witness should be present.

The following information will be noted on the outside of the envelope/container:

1. Name of school.
2. Date and time.
3. Description and number of contents (i.e., leafy material, pill, capsule, alcoholic container).
4. Signature of both parties (i.e., administrator/designee and witness).

The envelope/container will be sealed, using tape.

The envelope/container should be given to the building administrator. The envelope/container should be stored in the district safe or appropriate locked cabinet.

The appropriate law enforcement agency will be called by the administrator so that the substance may be given to the agency:

1. Pennsylvania State Police (226-5718).
2. Eastern Pike Police (296-7700).
3. Or other police agency as may be available and have jurisdiction.

The official receiving the substance will be asked to open it in the presence of the school administrator/designee and witness.

The official receiving the substance will be asked to sign and date the envelope/container and a form acknowledging receipt. A copy will be retained by the school.

Procedure For Conducting A Search In School

<p>Pol. 226</p>	<p>The primary purpose for all school conducted searches is for the protection of health, safety and welfare of students and staff and for the protection of school property and the educational process. School searches will be conducted out of concern for the school population under the doctrine on <i>in loco parentis</i>.</p> <p>The basis for all school searches will be based on a reasonable suspicion by the administrator that there is danger to the student being searched, other students, staff, school property or the educational process. All personal property in the possession, or under the control, of the student may be subject to search.</p> <p>The search will be conducted by the school administrator or designee in the presence of another staff member. Whenever possible, the student, whose property or locker is being searched, shall be requested to be present. However, in a situation involving the likelihood of a clear and present danger or removal of the controlled substance/alcohol being sought, the search may be conducted in the absence of the student.</p> <p>In an emergency and with approval of the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent, an individual may be searched if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is reasonable suspicion that the student possesses a weapon.2. There is concern that a delay could endanger the health, safety or welfare of the student, other students, or the school staff.3. Proper procedures including use of appropriate witnesses are used. Whenever possible, a person of the same sex as the student will serve as a witness.
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