

Rule 456 - Philosophy on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

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The Lodi School District believes that along with citizens and other community organizations, the school has a role to play in helping individuals to make responsible decisions about the use of alcohol and/or drugs. Therefore, the Lodi School District wishes to cooperate with all segments of the community in making the means of assistance available to those individuals who do develop alcohol and/or other drug related disabilities. Our primary goal is to educate and our secondary goal is to work cooperatively with other community resources in the area of intervention.

The Lodi School District recognizes that use of drugs and alcohol has increased in our society and that this increased use has also resulted in the increase in problems related to drugs and/or alcohol. The causes of the increase in use are diverse and debatable, however, the Lodi School District firmly believe that increased usage of drugs can cause personal, social and physical damage not only to the user but the user's family.

The Lodi School District believes that the early identification of alcohol or drug related problems can increase an individual's ability to deal effectively with his/her problems. The purpose of early identification is to offer services to the individual dealing with his/her difficulty.

The use and/or abuse of drugs and alcohol is not an indication of a person's lack of character but rather a behavioral/medical problem and should be dealt with accordingly. This implies that a program which deals with drugs or alcohol has two components. The prevention component focuses on education through assemblies, classroom presentations, small group interactions and individual counseling. The intervention component has two aspects; student assistance which offers service to students and attempts to help a student effectively deal with his/her problem, and school rules which impart consequences for student actions. An individual is always responsible for his/her action and the violation of any school rules will be dealt with according to school policy. Each component of the drugs and alcohol program operates independently but recognizes the legitimacy of each other's roles.

A. Services for Students from Alcohol and Drug Dependent Families:

The District will work to connect students to services available to students from families where there is a member who is or is believed to be alcohol or drug dependent as follows:

1. Procedural Steps

A. Schools in conjunction with community treatment resources may offer the following services to students from families where there is a member who is or believed to be chemically dependent:

1. Individual counseling for the student
2. In-school support group activities
3. Assistance in locating an ALA-TEEN group for support.
4. Assistance to the family in dealing with alcohol or drug dependency

- B. Students from chemically dependent homes may be brought to the attention of the counselor in one of the following ways:
 1. Self referral
 2. Staff member
 3. Peer(s)
 4. Family member(s)
- C. The counselor will contact the student and conduct one or more assessment interviews. The purpose of the interviews is to determine:
 1. The effects on the student living in a family with alcohol or drug difficulties
 2. The most appropriate role for the school in assisting the student and family
- D. During the assessment interview(s), the counselor will describe the services available to the student.
- E. Based on the assessment interview(s), the counselor will recommend an assistance program from the student. This may include information and evaluation sessions for the family at community agencies.

B. Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Programs:

It is the responsibility of the School District of Lodi to safeguard the health, character, citizenship and personality development of students in the school and to maintain an atmosphere which will promote a quality learning environment. Since use of alcohol and other drugs constitutes a hazard to the positive development of students, the school district will:

- Work to establish and implement a K-12 curriculum related to the prevention of alcohol and other drug use by students.
- Establish and implement procedures which will provide proper assistance for students using alcohol and other drugs. These procedures shall be printed and made available to all students, staff and the general public. They shall be incorporated into each school's faculty handbook.
- Establish and maintain appropriate procedures for adhering to the legal requirements and confidentiality relating to information shared by an individual.
- Cooperate with local municipalities and the various city, county, state and private agencies that are involved in the health of students relating to the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs within guidelines provided by the administration.
- Through the guidance and counseling program and K-12 curriculum establish and maintain prevention programs designed to provide students with appropriate information and the skills necessary to make responsible decisions regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Establish and maintain a continuing in-service education program for all staff to increase their awareness and knowledge of alcohol and other drugs. The in-service will be designed to increase awareness of the impact family alcohol and drug abuse has on a child's behavior, and the impact chemical use has on the individual user.

Legal Reference: s.58.34(7m)
s.115.35
s.115.36(4)
s.118.01(2)(d) 2, 6
s.118.126
s.118.24 (2)(f)
s.118.257
s.125.02 (8m)
s.125.037
s.125.09(2)
s.140.84
s.895.437