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## Questions Regarding Student Health Issues

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**Jackson, Penny** <penny.jackson@ccboe.net>

Thu, Jan 20, 2022 at 5:04 PM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: "Sherman, Michele" <msherman@ccboe.net>, "Flynt, Steven" <steven.flynt@ccboe.net>, "Meyer, LeeAnn" <leeann.meyer@ccboe.net>

Good afternoon-

We have provided the overall expectations, not specific answers, to the questions you sent us. We also included any relevant policies/procedures. Thank you and try to stay warm- it looks like it is going to be winter weekend.



**Penny Jackson**

Associate Superintendent

Phone: (706)-541-2723 x5207

4781 Hereford Farm Rd. Evans, GA 30809



Good afternoon-

Thank you for reaching out to us, and for understanding that this has been a busy first week back to school. Instead of answering each question individually, I am able to provide answers overall.

It is our strongest desire to work with the entire family. We recognize that when families are involved in a student's life, the student has a far greater chance of being successful. We do not intentionally keep information from parents and always encourage our students to work with their parents in all situations. There are some scenarios where parents would like information, particularly regarding other students, that we are unable to provide, but we always work hard to keep the parents involved in their child's education.

Students may request to speak with a counselor about any topic. Most of our counseling services at the high school level focus on advisement for graduation. However, counselors are available to assist students with any needs that interfere with their ability to learn at school. Policy and Procedure IG address this process and instructional focus. Our counselors are trained to lend a listening ear when necessary, but do not counsel specifically about pregnancy options, contraceptive options, drug treatment options, or gender options. Sometimes our School Social Workers are called to assist families with locating resources but we do not have a specific list of these resources, as they try to tailor the resource to the specific need of the parent/student. Our social workers have strong community relationships and rely on those to help families in need. Again, our focus is working with the entire family unit.

We teach STDs as part of the health curriculum (See Policy IDB and IDBA) and parents are given the opportunity to opt out of this part of the curriculum. If a student needs assistance with locating a healthcare provider, our nurses or School Social Workers would assist the family in finding one. Parents would be involved in this process.

Policy JCAC and GAEB pertain to sexual harassment and can directly answer your questions. Likewise, sexual harassment is discussed in our Student Code of Conduct.

Finally, in reference to gender dysphoria, if a student requests to see a counselor about this topic, the student will not be turned away. Counselors do not sway students in one way or another. Their role is to help the student remove barriers to learning, not provide clinical therapy. If a child asks to be called by a particular pronoun and the parent gives permission, then the teacher may refer to them in that manner. The classmates of the student have no requirement to call a student by a particular pronoun. Transgender students do not use the same bathrooms and/or locker rooms with preferred, not biological students. Students enroll by biological sex and this is not changed. We don't have a policy or written procedures on gender dysphoria. We work with students individually as needed.

I hope this information is helpful and that you have a wonderful weekend.

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:27 PM

**To:** Jackson, Penny <[penny.jackson@ccboe.net](mailto:penny.jackson@ccboe.net)>

**Cc:** Flynt, Steven <[steven.flynt@ccboe.net](mailto:steven.flynt@ccboe.net)>; Meyer, LeeAnn <[leeann.meyer@ccboe.net](mailto:leeann.meyer@ccboe.net)>; Sherman, Michele <[msherman@ccboe.net](mailto:msherman@ccboe.net)>

**Subject:** Re: Questions Regarding Student Health Issues

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Columbia County School District. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Sherman and Ms. Jackson,

I wanted to reach out one last time to confirm that my understanding of Ms. Jackson's answers, as I have outlined below, are correct. If I have misunderstood something, please let me know. If not, I will assume that this is the district's position on these issues.

Also, were you able to confirm that media center material order numbers have no way of being correlated with the content ordered?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Jan 14, 2022 at 12:41 AM Katie Allen <katieallenkst8@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Sherman and Ms. Jackson,

Could you please review my understanding of the answers and confirm that they are correct? Thank you!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 1:05 AM  
**To:** Flynt, Steven <steven.flynt@ccboe.net>; Sherman, Michele <msherman@ccboe.net>  
**Cc:** Meyer, LeeAnn <leann.meyer@ccboe.net>  
**Subject:** Questions Regarding Student Health Issues

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Columbia County School District. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr. Flynt and Ms. Sherman,

I recently did an Open Records Request and was provided a list of order numbers for materials ordered through Barnes & Noble but was told that there was no way to trace these order numbers back to the titles of the corresponding media ordered. I was additionally told that there are no confirmation emails received that might provide this information as well. Could you please confirm that this is accurate? (Ms. Sherman is looking into this and will respond)

Additionally, in light of the Wraparound survey asking students about gender pronouns and pornography addiction, I was curious if the Wraparound services (and/or general counseling services) provide information on other sensitive student health issues such as pregnancy, drug use, gender dysphoria, sexual health, and/or sexual harassment.

In general, I have noticed over the years that in some cases parents seem to be called and informed of sensitive student health events, but in other cases they are not. For example, a few years ago my daughter's teacher in elementary school informed me that a boy in the class had shown his genitals to my daughter and he had been removed from class. I appreciated that the teacher let me know so that I could talk to my daughter about the incident that evening. It had very little impact on my daughter that day, but I still felt that it was appropriate that I was called, and I appreciated that the teacher did it. Now that we are having larger concerns with sexually-themed exposures in school, I'm curious how the school determines thresholds in general of when parents are notified of events that could potentially impact student health and wellness. Also, if there are policies in place to guide teachers in when to notify parents I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy. (There is no current policy outlining when teachers must notify parents of sensitive situations)

If you could please take the time to respond to the questions below I would greatly appreciate it and have a better understanding of what to expect if these situations were

ever to happen to my children.

### **Pregnancy:**

Is pregnancy counseling provided to pregnant students seeking services? (Students may reach out to guidance counselors regarding this issue, but parents will always be contacted and will be aware of resources provided)

In general (both within and outside of wraparound services, to include health class), what is the policy if pregnant students seek pregnancy information from teachers, administrators, and/or guidance counselors? (There is no written policy on this issue; students may reach out to trusted adults, but parents will always be contacted and made aware of the situation)

Are their parents notified? (Parents are always notified of this issue)

Are they provided information about abortion? Adoption? Plan B or similar pills? (Information on abortion, adoption, Plan B, and/or birth control is never provided to minors)



Are students provided contact information to healthcare professionals outside of the school district? If so, what is the list of healthcare professionals provided? Are the student's parents notified of this? (Students are never provided contact information for healthcare professionals without the knowledge and permission of their parents)

### **Drug Use:**

- Are parents notified if the school is aware that children are using drugs? (Parents are always made aware when the school finds out that their children are using drugs)
- Are students provided contact information to healthcare professionals for drug abuse outside of the school district? If so, what is the list of healthcare professionals provided? Are the student's parents notified of this? (Students are never provided contact information for healthcare professionals without the knowledge and permission of their parents)

### **Gender Dysphoria:**

- Is gender dysphoria counseling provided to students seeking services? (Students may reach out to guidance counselors regarding this issue, but parents will always be contacted and will be aware of resources provided)
- In general (both within and outside of wraparound services, to include health class), what is the policy if students seek gender dysphoria information from teachers, administrators, and/or guidance counselors? (There is no policy regarding this issue)
- Are their parents notified? (Parents are always notified immediately regarding gender dysphoria in their children)

- Are they provided information about gender dysphoria, hormone treatments, and/or sex-change surgeries? (With the exception of media center materials, students are never provided information about these topics)
- Are students provided contact information to healthcare professionals regarding this topic outside of the school district? If so, what is the list of healthcare professionals provided? Are the student's parents notified of this? (Students are never provided contact information for healthcare professionals without the knowledge and permission of their parents)
- Are student preferred pronouns used or biologically aligned pronouns? Are parents notified of this? Are other students required to use student preferred pronouns that do not match biologically aligned pronouns? (Parents are always notified immediately when a student wishes to use pronouns that are not biologically aligned; other students are not required to use pronouns for these individuals that are not biologically aligned)
- Do transgender students use bathrooms and/or locker rooms based on preferred gender or biological sex? (All students are required to use bathrooms and/or locker rooms based on their biological sex)

## **Sexual Health:**

- If students disclose concerns about having a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) to a teacher or administrator, are parents notified? (Students may reach out to guidance counselors regarding this issue, but parents will always be contacted and will be aware of resources provided)
- Are students in the above situation given information on how to access healthcare services that provide treatment for STDs? Are parents notified? (While students are informed of types of STDs through the sexual education program, students are never provided contact information for healthcare professionals without the knowledge and permission of their parents)

## **Sexual Harassment:**

- If a student is sexually harassed, are parents notified? (Parents are always notified if their child is sexually harassed)

- What is the procedure for the accuser and accused in cases of sexual harassment?  
(The policy for this is JCAC and GAEB)

I know this is a lot to come back to after a holiday break, so please take a few days to respond if you need to. I would rather you not feel rushed and instead be able to go through each item and provide thorough responses. Thank you again for taking the time to help me understand what to expect in our district, I appreciate it!

Sincerely,