



BOARD POLICY ON REFERRAL PROTOCOLS FOR ADDRESSING SCHOLAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Purpose and Overview

John Adams Academies' (the "Academy") Referral Protocols for Addressing Scholar Behavioral Health Concerns ("Policy") addresses procedures relating to referrals for scholars in grades 7-12 to behavioral health professionals and support services in accordance with Education Code section 49428.2. This Policy has been developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders and school-linked behavioral health professionals.

Addressing the Needs of High-Risk Groups

The Academy recognizes the importance of ensuring equitable access to behavioral health supports for all scholars. The Academy hereby adopts this policy to address the needs of high-risk scholar groups, which include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Scholars bereaved by death or loss of a close family member or friend.
- Scholars for whom there is concern due to behavioral health disorders, including common psychiatric conditions and substance use disorders such as opioid and alcohol abuse.
- Scholars with disabilities, mental illness, or substance use disorders.
- Scholars experiencing homelessness or placed in out-of-home settings, such as foster care.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning scholars.

Referral Protocols and Procedures

1. Assessing School Needs

The Superintendent or designee will endeavor to regularly identify scholar behavioral health trends and identify potential gaps in scholar services/supports. In doing so, the Superintendent or designee may examine data such as, but not limited to, attendance-related data, academic performance data, disciplinary data, and conversations with stakeholders.

2. Building Capacity

The Academy will provide training for employees who have direct contact with scholars in grades 7-12 in accordance with Education Code section 49428.2(c). Materials approved by the Academy for training shall include how to identify appropriate contacts for behavioral health evaluation, services, or both evaluation and services, at both the Academy and within the larger community, and when and how to refer scholars and their families to those services.

3. Identifying Scholars

The Academy shall identify scholars with behavioral health concerns using various methods, including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Any screening tools, surveys, and/or questionnaires as may be distributed to scholars or families;
- Teacher/staff observations;
- Parent/guardian, scholar self-referral, or family input; or
- Data tracking (e.g., discipline or attendance patterns).

4. Implementing Scholar Supports

Scholars identified by the Academy staff as having behavioral health concerns shall be promptly referred to the Principal or designee. The Academy shall support identified scholars through a balanced approach that prioritizes proactive intervention, collaboration, accountability, and alignment with the Academy's 10 Core Values.

The Academy shall support scholars identified with behavioral health concerns as follows:

- The Academy will offer positive behavioral interventions and supports as appropriate, such as but not limited to:
 - Ongoing communication and collaboration with the scholar's parent(s)/guardian(s);
 - Conferences involving the scholar, family, and relevant staff;
 - Counseling services, academic supports, and peer support opportunities.
 - The Academy endeavors to use positive behavioral interventions and supports in lieu of disciplinary action as appropriate. Scholars who receive disciplinary action may also be offered positive behavioral interventions/supports.
- As appropriate, the Academy may conduct disability-related screenings/evaluations to determine whether the scholar's behavior reflects an underlying disability.

- As appropriate, the Academy may refer scholars to outside agencies (e.g., therapists, social workers, clinics, and community-based service providers).
- As appropriate, the Academy may coordinate implementation of supports with the scholar's IEP or Section 504 Team, Foster Youth Liaison, and/or Homeless Liaison to ensure consistency and alignment of services being provided.
- Scholars will be held accountable for their behavior in alignment with the Academy's 10 Core Values. Accountability measures may include restorative practices, reflective interventions, and disciplinary actions that reinforce responsibility, growth, and character development.
- The Academy will schedule and conduct follow-up check-ins with scholars and families to monitor progress, evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, and determine whether additional supports are required.

Authorization and Scope of Practice

Employees of the Academy must act only within the authorization and scope of their credentials or license. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging school employees to diagnose or treat youth behavioral health disorders unless they are specifically licensed and employed to do so.