

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PERSONALITY TESTS

(By authority conferred on the state board of education by section 270a of Act No. 269 of the Public Acts of 1955, as added, being S340.270a of the Michigan Compiled Laws)

R 340.1101 Definitions.

Rule 1. As used in these rules:

(a) "Personality tests" means instruments designed primarily to assess behavior characteristics of individuals other than the characteristics of aptitude, interest, achievement or intelligence. Such instruments are developed in accordance with some theory of personality and may be categorized as being "projective" or "nonprojective."

(b) "Projective personality tests" means instruments based on the assumption that the responses to unstructured material provide for helpful inferences about personality and behavior. Examples of such unstructured stimuli may include pictures, inkblots, incomplete sentences, and similar materials.

(c) "Nonprojective personality tests" means instruments based on the assumption that responses to written questions provide helpful inferences about personality and behavior. Although such tests are commonly referred to as personality scales, personality inventories, tests of social adjustment or personality check lists, the purpose, design and contents of the tests, as heretofore indicated, are the determinants in identifying these from among such tests as interest, achievement, mental capacity or intelligence tests which are not within the provisions of section 270a of Act No. 269 of the Public Acts of 1955, as added by Act No. 305 of the Public Acts of 1967, being SS340.270a of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(d) "School project or part of a school program" means any activity under the sponsorship, supervision, or authorization of the school district, or intermediate school district, even though the pupils may attend a nonpublic school primarily or a public school on a part-time basis only. School districts offering personality tests may offer such tests to other nonpublic school pupils.

(e) "Circumstances of test administration" means those situations which must exist as a condition leading to a decision that a test or a battery of tests should be administered to any pupil covered by subdivision (d).

(f) "Administrator of a test" means the individual who presents the test material and supervises the responses to it.

(g) "Test interpreter" means the individual who interprets the responses to the test whether or not he is the administrator of it.

History: 1979 AC.

R 340.1102 Circumstances of personality test use.

Rule 2. (1) The use of personality tests in a school project or program shall be limited to those circumstances as deemed warranted, from an educational viewpoint, by an individual professionally qualified by education and experience to make such decisions. Such circumstances shall be limited to situations where (a) pupil behavior indicates the need for more information which might lead to an adjustment in his school environment or his educational planning; (b) data from the responses could contribute to self-exploration on the part of the pupil as a part of his educational and vocational planning and decision making; or (c) approved research programs, designed in accordance with commonly accepted patterns, necessitate the use of such tests, either on a group or individual basis. The policy governing decisions to administer personality tests of any kind or type, as a part of a school project or program, shall be determined by the local district board of education in consultation with the local district superintendent and other qualified personnel as described in R 340.1105.

(2) Personality tests may be administered as a part of a school project or program only after due notice in writing is given to the parent or guardian that such tests are being contemplated for the pupil. No tests shall be given to any child whose parent or guardian objects to the test in writing within 10 days after written notice is mailed to the parent.

History: 1979 AC.

R 340.1103 Responsibility for test selection.

Rule 3. The superintendent of the local or intermediate school district is ultimately responsible for the selection of personality tests to be used in the district. This responsibility shall be deemed to be met fully if the superintendent acts in accordance with a consultation with an individual meeting the minimum qualifications prescribed in R 340.1105.

History: 1979 AC.

R 340.1104 Qualifications of persons administering tests.

Rule 4. An employee or other representative of a local or intermediate school district shall not administer a personality test unless he has met the minimum qualifications prescribed in R 340.1105, or unless he does so under the direction and supervision of a person possessing such minimum qualifications.

History: 1979 AC.

R 340.1105 Qualifications of persons interpreting test results.

Rule 5. An employee or other representative of a local or intermediate school district shall not interpret a personality test unless he has filed satisfactory evidence, with the superintendent of the local or

intermediate school district, that he has been granted an earned doctor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a major in psychology, educational psychology, counseling, guidance or education, with satisfactory specific training in psychological tests and measurements, and with specific training in the use of personality tests of the kind and type to be interpreted, projective or nonprojective.

History: 1979 AC.

R 340.1106 Confidentiality of test results.

Rule 6. (1) Specific responses to personality tests, projective and nonprojective, shall be adequately safeguarded from becoming accessible to others than those personnel qualified as prescribed in R 340.1105 to administer and interpret these tests. An interpretation summary of test results may be made available by such qualified personnel only to individuals directly concerned with the educational welfare of the pupil. However, specific responses and interpretation summaries may become part of published research findings and reports where the identities of the individuals tested are properly safeguarded.

(2) A transfer of individual personality test interpretation summaries to other school districts or agencies shall not be made without the permission of the parent or guardian expressed in writing and filed with the sending district.

History: 1979 AC.

R 340.1107 Superintendents' responsibility for compliance.

Rule 7. The superintendent of schools in a district providing a school project or program in which personality tests are used is responsible for compliance with these rules.

History: 1979 AC.