

What Is SAP?

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Student Assistance Program (SAP), which is administered by the PA Department of Education's Safe Schools Office in partnership with the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' Division of Prevention and Intervention, and the PA Department of Human Services Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, is designed to assist school personnel in identifying issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues which pose a barrier to a student's success.

The primary goal of the Student Assistance Program (SAP) is to help students overcome these barriers in order that they may achieve, remain in school, and advance.

SAP team members are trained to identify problems, determine whether or not the presenting problem lies within the responsibility of the school and to make recommendations to assist the student and the parent.

When the problem lies beyond the scope of the school, the SAP team will assist the parent and student so they may access services within the community. (www.pnsas.org)

Jeffrey Marchese, MSW, LSW

826 Delaware Ave,
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Ph: 610-419-3101 x213
C: 484-661-6158

jmarchese@marscare.com
www.marsatp.com



M.A.R.S. SAP Clinical Staff

Jeffrey Marchese, MSW, LSW
SAP Coordinator
jmarchese@marscare.com

Rachel Starmer, MACC
SAP Clinical Assessor
rstarmer@marscare.com

Laura Gordon, MA, MDiv, MACC
SAP Clinical Assessor
lgordon@marscare.com

Michael Kon, M.Ed., CAADC
SAP Clinical Assessor
mkon@marscare.com

Betsy Martellucci, M.Ed., LPC, CAADC
M.A.R.S. Clinical Director
bmartellucci@marscare.com

610.419.3101



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Bethlehem, PA 18015

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

*Behavioral Health
Assessments*

M.A.R.S.

Mid Atlantic Rehab Services
MARSATP.COM

SAP ASSESSMENT STEPS

INITIAL PROCESS

After referral from your child's school counselor or administrator, a behavioral health assessment will be administered by a therapist from our agency. If the student already has private or public insurance, it will be utilized to cover services. Any costs or charges dictated by the student's insurance, related to deductibles or co-pays, will be billed to the family at a later date. If the student is uninsured, coverage for the behavioral health assessment will be assumed by Lehigh County.

ASSESSMENT PHASE

The behavioral health assessment is essentially an interview that seeks student perspectives in the areas of family relationships, academic performance, behavioral health, peer relationships, and substance use and or abuse. A snapshot is developed, identifying potential need for additional support. The student is engaged through positive interaction and an interviewing style that places their needs as the primary focus.

CLINICAL REVIEW OF NEEDS

After completion of the behavioral health assessment, a parent/guardian is contacted to discuss the general findings. However, some specific details shared by the student may be protected under federal privacy statutes, as is the case in any therapeutic setting. Adequate information will be shared to allow determination of safety and consequent steps.

REFERRAL TO ADDITIONAL SERVICES

A behavioral health referral will be provided to the student who meets clinical criteria for this. These referrals will be to local behavioral health professionals who are in-network with the student's insurance. The SAP assessor will support the family in the process of securing a first appointment with the referred professional.

Other Details of Services

Assessments provided on school premises with option of being conducted at our agency in Bethlehem.

Timely follow-up to parent/guardian provided by assessor who directly met with the student.

Assessment length is typically 45-60 minutes.

Student's confidentiality prioritized with only minimal assessment details provided to school district.

Therapists work to provide a positive and personalized connection to students.

Following SAP Assessments last year, our clinical staff referred students for additional support to over 30 different therapists/agencies in the Lehigh Valley.



Why a SAP Assessment?

Our assessors look at an individual's needs, preferences, and strengths to determine what, if any, assistance is necessary for the student being assessed.

Upon completion of the assessment, an individual and their support system will be involved in determining the most appropriate referrals.

Clinicians completing the assessment are master's level counselors with a passion for connecting with and providing services with and for adolescents.

A SAP behavioral health assessment is often the first clinical tool applied to a student allowing for early detection of negative behavioral patterns that can be effectively managed or treated.