



allegheny
children's initiative

Hope starts here



Student Assistance Program

Allegheny Children's Initiative's Student Assistance Program supports students, engages families and works collaboratively with the school to address barriers to academic success.

Student support:

- Screening includes SAP CANS, CRAFFT (as identified) and Columbia Suicide Screening Tool-Revised.
- Group support: friendship lunch bunch, grief, worry/anxiety.
- Strength-based model where student strengths are used to plan interventions.
- Formal and informal supports are recommended.
- Postvention support that is year-round, agile, and flexible to meet the needs of the student body.

Family support:

- Continuous communication with parents/guardians regarding student needs, screening outcomes, screening recommendations and engagement in services.
- Provide multiple options to ensure consumer choice in providers.
- Consistent, attentive screening recommendation follow-up until linked with support.
- Recognition that parents/guardians are vital to the resolution of issues that are interfering with student achievement.
- Diligently assess and address barriers to parent involvement, such as mistrust, stigma, own mental health or substance use concerns, misinformation regarding SAP, or basic needs needing addressed.

School support:

- Work in tandem with school counselors, discipline, health, or other school resources.
- Attendance at all CORE team meetings.
- In-person and virtual.
- SAP overview training for all members of the school community.
- Suicide prevention training.
- ADHD in the classroom training.
- Grief Awareness Day presentations and activities.
- Postvention services that are responsive to the district's needs.
- Yearly satisfaction survey to all CORE team members.

Resources:

- SAP newsletter published five times a year, focused on specific topics (back to school, wellness, grief, substance/tobacco use and vaping, summer activities around Pittsburgh).
- Grief flier with variety of resources.
- SAP student brochure.
- SAP teacher resource brochure.
- Community resources specific to each school district.

SAP Liaisons:

- Integrate themselves to the school community.
- Strong working knowledge of the mental health and drug and alcohol serving systems.
- Utilize Motivational Interviewing techniques.
- Practice Trauma Informed Care.
- Committed to providing services that respect and honor diverse populations.
- Exemplify a “whatever it takes” approach to service delivery.

Allegheny Children's Initiative is licensed by the PA Department of Human Services/Office of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services and monitored by Allegheny County Department of Human Services and Community Care Behavioral Health Organization.

Allegheny Children's Initiative is nationally accredited by The Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. Allegheny Children's Initiative is a trauma-informed agency that delivers trauma-informed care within a continuum of behavioral health-oriented services that include Family Based Mental Health, Intensive Behavior Health Services, Administrative and Blended Service Coordination, Parent-Child Interactive Therapy, Student Assistance Program, and Kids' Club and Moms' Empowerment Program.