



To make a referral:

Referral forms may be located on a bulletin board display in your school. Teachers, principals, and school counselors all have access to referral forms as well. You can confidentially turn in referrals to any of these school personnel or your school's secure drop box (if available). See your school counselor or principal for a listing of your school's SAP team members. For more information about SAP visit your school counseling department or the PA state SAP website:

www.sap.state.pa.us



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GROUPS

REFERRAL

SCREENING

CONSULTING

SUPPORT



For over 25 years the Student Assistance Program has worked in Pennsylvania to help troubled students. We are in some situations a first line of support for students dealing with any family issues, drug & alcohol issues, suicidal issues, sadness issues, peer drama or bullying issues.

We work to not only support students in school, but to connect students and families to the much needed resources to help them succeed in negotiating some of life's most tumultuous storms.

We believe that relationships are the key to helping those in need. We take our roles in student's lives very seriously. We are more than just teachers, administrators, and school personnel... we are mentors, examples, and in some cases another shoulder to lean on. We are the Student Assistance Program, and we can help.



Student Teacher Assistance Referral Team (START)



helping troubled students

removing barriers to learning and success

Pennsylvania's Student Assistance Program (SAP) is designed to assist school personnel in identifying issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and mental health concerns which pose a barrier to a student's success. The goal of any Student Assistance Program (called Student Teacher Assistance Referral Team or START at this school) is to help students overcome these barriers in order that they may achieve, remain in school, and succeed in life. START uses systematic techniques to mobilize resources to remove barriers to learning.

CONNECTING YOUR STUDENT TO THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO SUCCEED

The core of the program is a professionally trained team, including school staff and liaisons from community drug & alcohol and mental health agencies. When the problem lies beyond the scope of the school, the Student Teacher Assistance Referral Team will assist the parent and student so they may access services within the community. The Student Teacher Assistance Referral Team members do not diagnose, treat or refer to treatment; but they may refer for a screening or an assessment for treatment.



practical support for your student's needs

FOUR KEY PHASES OF THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROCESS

REFERRAL

Anyone can refer a student to START when they are concerned about a student's behavior, attitudes, or performance: any school staff, a student's friend, a family member or community member. The students themselves can even go directly to the START team to ask for help. A member of the START team may then contact a parent for permission to proceed with the START process.

TEAM PLANNING

The START team gathers objective information about the student's performance in school from all school personnel who have contact with the student. Information is also collected from a parent. The team discusses the data collected with a parent and also meets with the student. Together, a plan is developed that includes strategies for removing the learning barriers and promoting the student's academic and personal success to include in-school and/or community-based services and activities.

INTERVENTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The plan is put into action. The team assists in linking the student to in-school and/or community-based services and activities. The team might also recommend a drug & alcohol or mental health screening or assessment with a SAP trained liaison from Healthy Communities Partnership. The liaison can offer support at school and connect your student to any additional resources they may need.



SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP

The START team will continue to work with and support referred students and their families. Follow-up includes monitoring, mentoring, motivating, or connecting students in various groups for personal and academic success.

START LIAISON SERVICES



CONFIDENTIAL

The entire START process including liaison services is confidential. The only exception is where the student reveals any signs of abuse, suicidal ideation, or possible harm to others. In fact, others may not know a student is involved with START unless the student reveals it.



TEAM ORIENTED

Liaisons work with the START team to follow-up with students and families, to connect them to services and resources, and to provide support to those returning to school.



GROUP SESSIONS

In addition to individual screenings and sessions with students, the START liaison can also offer mental health and drug & alcohol prevention groups tailored to the needs of the students in each school.

YOUR SAP LIAISON

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