

## **Student Assistance Program (SAP)**

The Commonwealth of PA, Act 211, mandates a student assistance program in every school. SAP is designed to assist in identifying issues, including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues, which pose barriers to a student's success. The primary goal of the Student Assistance Program is to help students overcome these barriers so that they may achieve, advance, and remain in school.

### **Who are the SAP team members?**

Our team is made up of school faculty, counselors, nurses, administrators, and community agency staff, who help families access school and community resources.

### **What is the overall goal of the SAP Team?**

Identify students whose behavior, attendance, or grades indicate that they may have problems related to alcohol or other drugs, mental health concerns, and/or other issues that negatively impact their educational performance.

### **How does the student assistance program work?**

Any concerned individual (school staff, family members, students) may refer students to the program. Concerns may be related but not limited to the following:

- Substance abuse
- Mental health
- Change in behavior
- Drop in grades
- Dramatic change in appearance

The SAP Team will gather information from a variety of sources. Information collected includes grades, attendance, discipline, performance in class, health office information, and counselor information. Information collected is based on observable and verifiable information.

Parents/guardians are contacted, and permission may be obtained if an assessment is agreed upon.

### **What is an assessment?**

BCTHS contracts with The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania to perform assessments. A consultant from The Council will contact the family and meet with your student during the school day to complete the assessment. During a one-on-one meeting, the Caron consultant interviews the student to identify substance use-related problems, mental health issues, and other factors that could negatively affect a young person's life. Upon completing the comprehensive assessment, recommendations are provided that may help the student. Recommendations are confidential and will only be shared with the guardian of the student and the school's SAP Core Team.

Participation in the SAP process is completely voluntary.

The SAP process is confidential, and your child's privacy will be respected at all times.

For more information, please contact Lisa McWilliams at 215.949.1700 x 2594 or [lmcwilliams@bcths.com](mailto:lmcwilliams@bcths.com)