

JAMESTOWN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

In Pennsylvania, every public school has a Student Assistance Team (S.A.P.). At Jamestown, the high school and middle school team is here to help you and your child access school and community services.

Your child's S.A.P. team will help you find services and assistance within the school, and if needed, in the community. The S.A.P. team is not a treatment program. We do not diagnose, treat or refer your child for treatment. Rather, we will provide you with the information and assist you, if necessary, in making the decisions that impact you and your child. The team can assist you and your child in recognizing and addressing barriers to learning; with the overall goal being to assist your child in achieving success academically.

All Student Assistance Team members are required to participate in a rigorous and mandatory training approved by the state of Pennsylvania. This training, which typically lasts three days, provides team members with extensive information and tools necessary for working with students and families who participate in the S.A.P. process. All team members are certified at the end of the training and no person is permitted to become a S.A.P. team member without the proper training and certification.

Student Assistance Team members are trained to identify problems; determine which services exist to appropriately deal with the issue(s); and make recommendations to the parent/guardian for either in-school services, that are tailored to meet the student's needs, or community services through a screening with a community liaison.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD MIGHT NEED THIS SERVICE?

DO YOU SEE YOUR CHILD SHOWING ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS?

- Withdrawing from family, friends and/or school
- Changing friends or no longer spending time with old friends
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Talking about suicide
- Feeling depressed
- Defying authority, at home and/or at school
- Acting aggressively
- Lying, stealing, or cheating
- Needing money without explanation
- Sudden drop in grades
- Experimenting with drugs or alcohol
- Unexplained weight loss or gain

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S REACTION TO:

- Recent death of a loved one
- Divorce or separation of parents
- Family relocation
- A relationship problem

- Parent or other family member deployed in the Armed Service
- Other traumatic event

HOW DOES YOUR CHILD BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM?

Students become involved with the S.A.P. team in different ways. Anyone can refer a student by letting a team member know that they have a concern about someone. Some students are referred by teachers or other school personnel. Parents and community members can also refer a student. Sometimes, students even refer themselves.

Once the Student Assistance Team has received a referral, it is discussed at a team meeting. The team meets twice a month to discuss referrals and work on cases that are active. If the S.A.P. team feels they can be of benefit to your child, you will be contacted and asked for your permission to begin the S.A.P. process. The S.A.P. will not become involved with your child without written permission from a parent or guardian.

WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE HAS ALREADY REFERRED YOUR CHILD?

First, know that your child was referred because someone is concerned about observable changes they are seeing in your child. Perhaps a teacher or friend has noticed changes in behavior and habits that have not been noticed at home.

The Student Assistance Team will request that you answer some questions about your child and sign a written permission form. If you feel that you need additional information before signing the form, please feel free to contact a Student Assistance Team member. Participation in this program is voluntary.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I GIVE MY PERMISSION?

There are several steps that the team will take after receiving your written consent:

- 1) A S.A.P. team member will be assigned as a Case Manager for your child's case.
- 2) The Case Manager will gather specific information about your child's performance in school from all school staff who have contact with your child. The Case Manager will be your point of contact throughout the process. Both you and your child can and should discuss any concerns or questions you may have with your S.A.P. Case Manager.
- 3) A plan of action will be developed to help your child succeed in school. This plan is created through the collaboration of you, the S.A.P. Case Manager and entire Student Assistance Team. The plan may include services or activities in school and/or services from a community agency. If necessary, the Case Manager will talk to you about services in the community and give you additional information on how to contact others who may be able to help.
- 4) The S.A.P. Case Manager will continue to work with and support your child throughout the entire process. They will stay in touch with you, as needed, to talk with you about your child's progress in school. Your continued involvement is very important.
- 5) Each active case is reviewed at least twice a month by the entire team to determine progress.

WHO IS TRAINED AS A JAMESTOWN STUDENT ASSISTANCE TEAM MEMBER AT THE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL & HOW DO I CONTACT THEM?

If you feel that your child may need help, please contact Jamestown High School and ask to speak with a member of the Student Assistance Team. Someone will be here to help you.

Jamestown Jr./Sr. High School Trained Student Assistance Team Members:

- **Brian Keyser, Principal**
- **Kate Evans-Haines, School Counselor**
- **Mark Wyant, Teacher**
- **Kristy Zarecky, Teacher**
- **Katy Kauffman, Teacher**
- **Melanie Ball, Teacher Aide**
- **Amber Baughman, Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission School Liaison**
- **Cindy Robison, Mercer County Juvenile Probation**

PRIVACY

The Student Assistance Team and the school will respect and maintain your child's right to privacy at all times.