

Here are a few signs and symptoms which can pose barriers of learning:

- Bullying
- Change in behavior or mood (easily upset, sad, angry, fighting, unpredictable, secretive, etc.)
- Drop in grades or school performance (skipping school, not completing homework, etc.)
- Change in friends, appearance or interests
- Health problems (fatigue, weight loss/gain, change in sleep patterns, headaches, etc.)
- Defiance of rules at home or school (refusing to do chores, coming home late, avoiding family, taking money, etc.)
- Alcohol or other drug use, no matter how minimal, or misuse of medications
- Expressing hopelessness, worthlessness or helplessness
- Runaway or leaving for extended period of time
- Expressing desire to punish or gain revenge via harmful means (harasses, threatens others, etc.)
- Stress reactions (relocation, job loss, birth, death, military deployment of family members, etc.)

The Following Erie County school districts are active partners in this collaborative effort:

- Corry Area
- Fairview
- Fort LeBoeuf
- General McLane
- Girard
- Harbor Creek
- Iroquois
- Millcreek Township
- North East
- Northwestern
- The School District of the City of Erie
- Union City
- Wattsburg Area

“Building a Future Together”

S.A.P. is a collaborative effort between:

- * Erie County Office of Mental Health/Intellectual Disability
- * Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit
- * Pyramid Health
- * School District of the City of Erie

For more information contact the S.A.P. County Coordinator at 814-734-8429

ERIE COUNTY STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



“It takes time to know children; it takes time to work with them...it takes time to think, to read, to visit, to discuss, to seek, to grow, and to continue to grow.”

Vincent R. Rogers

What is the Student Assistance Program (S.A.P.)?

The Student Assistance Program helps students overcome barriers to learning so that they achieve, remain in school, and advance.

S.A.P. is an intervention program, not a treatment program that integrates a process of information gathering, and referral through a core team.

What is a Core Team?

A core team is a trained team of school personnel that meets regularly to identify and assist students and families in seeking appropriate help through S.A.P. The core team will also include a liaison, representing both the mental health and drug and alcohol systems.

What is the Parents' Role?

Parent involvement strengthens the decision making process about any behavior that is affecting the education, health, safety, or welfare of their child. Active parent support of the S.A.P. process promotes student success. Students are more likely to benefit from S.A. P. recommendations when parents are informed, involved and supportive.

What is the S.A. P. policy regarding confidentiality?

Confidentiality between all parties involved in the S.A.P. process shall be respected and maintained in the best interest of the student and in accordance with all State and Federal laws protecting the privacy rights of parents and students.

What is the S.A.P. Referral Process?

The Student Assistance Program is conducted on a voluntary basis utilizing the following process.

STEP I – Students are referred to S.A.P. by:

- School Administrator
- Teacher
- Other School Personnel (Guidance Counselor, Nurse, etc.)
- Fellow Students
- Self-Referral
- Parent/Family

STEP II – All referrals to the S.A.P. are reviewed by the core team, and a formal information gathering process begins. Data is collected from various sources such as:

- Student Records (academic, school attendance)
- Teachers (classroom behavior)
- Guidance Counselors (special areas of concern)
- School Nurse
- Other School Personnel

STEP III – Based on information gathered, a determination is made by the core team as to the seriousness of the problem and the level of intervention that is needed. When an in-school screening has been indicated, one is set up with the S.A.P. liaison. Throughout the S.A. P. process, family and core team work together to develop the plan.

STEP IV – the core team and /or liaison then assists the student and the parents/family in developing an action plan. The action plan may consist of:

- In-school support services
and/or
- Further evaluation by the mental health system, drug and alcohol system or both to determine the most appropriate level of care needed
and/or
- Other professional services outside the school setting

STEP V – The core team monitors the progress of the student to determine the extent of which the identified problems are being resolved through the action plan. If necessary, changes will be made to the action plan.

