

## Student Assistance Program

### What is the Student Assistance Program?

The Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a systematic team process used to mobilize school resources to remove barriers to learning. SAP is designed to assist in identifying issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues which pose a barrier 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. While Student Assistance Programs exist in other areas of the country, the structure and operation of the program in Pennsylvania is a unique expression of an integrated model serving the needs of Pennsylvania families and students.

The SAP team at PHCSE is a group of school and community personnel who have been trained to understand, identify and assess certain behaviors in children and adolescents. The goal of our PHCSE SAP team is to identify those students who are exhibiting "at risk" behaviors which is impeding their overall academic and personal growth while helping them management difficulties before they become unmanageable.

### The Process

**Identification** - Following a referral, parents and school personnel are asked to submit information that would help determine whether screening is appropriate.

**Intervention** - The SAP team reviews the information and determines whether future screening is necessary.

**Screening** - All screenings are conducted by community professionals who specialize in working with children and adolescents and who work with the Allegheny County student assistance program.

**Treatment** - If the assessor recommends treatment, the student and family will be assisted in contacting the proper agency and making arrangements to begin treatment.



## Get Informed

For additional information about PHCSE SAP team and services, contact **SAP Coordinator, Nicole Dickinson** at 412-793-6471 ext. 234 or [nicole.dickinson@phcharter.org](mailto:nicole.dickinson@phcharter.org)

SAP Team Members include:

Nicole Dickinson

Terri Williams

Tamara Allen-Thomas

Jessica Zuk

Heather Clark

Michele Aron

Donna Wallace

PHCSE is contracted with Mon Yough Community Services and our SAP liaison is through Mon Yough. The liaison attends every SAP meeting, completes screenings and has contact with parents.