

Allegheny Valley School District Core Team Members

Trained school personnel who serve on the SAP team meet bi-weekly to identify and assist students and families in seeking appropriate support through SAP.

Administrators

- Mr. Andrew Leviski - *Springdale Jr-Sr High School Principal*
Ms. Melissa Gibbon - *Springdale Jr-Sr High School Assistant Principal*
Mr. Gregory Heavner - *Acmetonia Elementary Principal*
Dr. Melissa Holler - *Director of Special Education*

School Counselors

- Ms. Rebecca Garbisch - *grades K-6*
Ms. Andrea Sadowski - *grades 7-9*
Ms. Rebecca Dyer - *grades 10-12*

Teachers

- Ms. Pam Noll
Ms. Lisa Gray
Ms. Rachel Tinker

Specialists

- Ms. Kandi Connor - *school nurse*
Ms. Danielle Britton - *district social worker*
Ms. Katie Regner - *reading intervention*
Ms. Angela Fetty - *math intervention*

The SAP team also includes a liaison from the Human Services Administration Organization (HSAO).

Family Involvement

Family Involvement strengthens the decision-making process about behaviors affecting the education, health, safety, or welfare of the child. Active family support of the SAP process promotes a child's success. Students benefit greatly from SAP recommendations when families are informed, involved, and supportive.

Confidentiality

The SAP team and school respect and maintains confidentiality between all parties involved in the SAP process in the best interest of the student and in accordance with all State and Federal laws protecting the privacy of parents and students.

Additional Resources

www.pnsas.org

www.alleghenycounty.us

www.hsao.org

www.avsdweb.org



Allegheny Valley School District



Student Assistance Program (SAP)

A Guide for Families

300 Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
(724) 274-5300

What is SAP?

In Pennsylvania, all schools have a student assistance program (SAP) to help students overcome barriers to learning. SAP is an intervention program, facilitated by a core team, that uses referrals and information gathering to guide decisions. SAP services are non-disciplinary and are not part of a student's records. Students are referred to SAP because someone who cares about them noticed behaviors of concern. The SAP team does not diagnose, treat or refer students for treatment. Rather, the SAP team provides school and community resources and services; families make the decision to participate.

How to refer to SAP?

Anyone (administrators, teachers, staff, families, peers) may refer a student to SAP. Someone from the SAP team will reach out to the parent/guardian for permission to proceed with the SAP process.



Who is referred to SAP?

Do you notice a student exhibiting any of these behaviors?

- Withdrawing from family/friends and/or school
- Changing friends, withdrawing from old friends
- Unexplained physical injuries
 - Talking about suicide
 - Depression
- Expressing hopelessness or worthlessness
 - Expressing helplessness
- Defying authority, both at home and at school
 - Behaving aggressively
 - Lying and/or stealing
- Sudden change in behavior or mood
 - Sudden drop in grades
- Physical symptoms or health problems (fatigue, weight loss/gain, change in sleep patterns, headaches, etc.)

Are you concerned about your child's reaction to:

- Recent death of a loved one
 - Divorce of parents
 - Family relocation
- Military deployment of a loved one
 - A relationship problem
 - Other traumatic event

SAP Referral Process

1. Students are referred to SAP
2. A member of the SAP team reaches out to the parent/guardian for permission
3. SAP referrals are reviewed by the team
4. The formal data-gathering process begins. Data is collected from various sources:
 - Student records (academic, attendance)
 - Teacher input (behavioral observations)
 - School counselors (special areas of concern)
 - School nurses
 - Other school personnel
5. Based on the data collected and the parent input form, the SAP team determines the seriousness of the problem and the interventions needed.
6. An action plan is created to remove any/all barriers to learning. The action plan may consist of one more of the following:
 - In-school support services
 - Referral for a school-based evaluation
 - Mental health screening
 - Other professional services outside the school setting
7. The SAP team monitors the progress of the student to determine the extent to which identified problems are being resolved through the action plan. If necessary, changes are made to the action plan.