

# What is a Student Assistance Program (SAP)?

The **Student Assistance Program (SAP)** is a “learning support” umbrella structure that brings together all support service providers at a school site. The SAP focuses on referred students, and coordinates respective programs and services to promote their academic success. The SAP provides early identification, assessment, referral, support, and service coordination for students experiencing academic, attendance, behavior/social, or health problems that impact school success. In addition, school-wide issues are identified and addressed.

## The SAP process includes:

- 1) **Early Identification:** Students with academic, attendance, behavior/social, health issues are referred to the SAP team.
- 2) **Assessment:** SAP team gathers information regarding the student referred and identifies the student’s strengths and needs.
- 3) **Planning and Support:** SAP team identifies and links students with school and community based interventions and resources.
- 4) **Service Coordination:** Identified SAP team member follows a student’s progress with recommended interventions and resources.
- 5) **School-wide Assessment & Program Development:** Identifying, linking and developing resources—within and outside the school community—that reflect the broad issues/trends identified by the team to support student success (e.g. - support groups, mentoring, positive behavior support, structured before-school and recess activities).

## Who is on the SAP team?

- Administrator/Principal
- Attendance Liaison or CWAL
- Community School Coordinator
- Dean or Head Counselor
- Elementary or Middle School Advisors
- ExCEL After School Program Site Coordinator (ASP) and/or Beacon Director
- Instructional Reform Facilitator
- Learning Support Professional (LSP) and/or Wellness Coordinator (WC)
- Parent Liaison
- Representative of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) regularly on-site
- School Counselor
- School District Nurse (SDN)
- School Psychologist
- Site Nutrition Coordinator (SNC)
- Special Education Representative (e.g. Resource Specialist -RSP teacher)
- Others, as recommended by the SAP team

## A SAP can address students who:

- exhibit behavioral/mental health issues
- face significant illness or disability
- have chronic attendance problems
- have difficulty with academics
- have family or peer issues
- suffer from trauma associated with exposure to violence
- use/abuse substances
- are experiencing sexual health, sexual orientation, pregnancy issues