

# Are You Worried About Your Child?

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) can help children experiencing barriers to learning.

The SAP team is made up of school and agency staff and is available to help you access school and community services for your child. In Pennsylvania, every school district is required to have a plan for identifying and assisting students who experience barriers to learning.

## Do You See Your Child Showing Any of These Behaviors?

- Withdrawing from family, friends, and/or activities
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Feeling sad or suicidal thoughts
- Defying authority, both at home and school
- Acting aggressively
- Lying
- Declining grades
- Experimenting with alcohol or drugs

## Are You Concerned about Your Child's Reaction to...?

- Recent death of a loved one
- Divorce of parents
- Family relocation
- A relationship problem
- Bullying
- Other traumatic events

## How Does My Child Become Involved in the SAP Program?

Anyone can refer a child to the SAP. Some students are referred by teachers or other school personnel. A friend or family member can also let the SAP team know that they are worried about someone. The child can even go directly to the SAP team to ask for help. Schools will gather information to determine how a student is doing in their classes. However, the SAP team will not proceed unless you give your written parent permission. Once permission is received, the SAP team will work with you to develop a plan of action to help your child achieve success in school. Participation in the program is voluntary.

## What If Someone Has Referred My Child to SAP?

A team member will contact you regarding your child's referral to the program. Before a SAP team member talks to your child, you will be asked to sign a permission form. The SAP team will work with you and your child throughout the process. As a parent, your knowledge and thoughts about your child will be helpful in developing a plan of action. If you need more information before making a decision about SAP, please feel free to talk to a SAP team member.

## How Do I Contact the SAP Team?

If you have any questions about SAP or you feel that your child may need help, call your child's school and ask to speak with the school counselor.