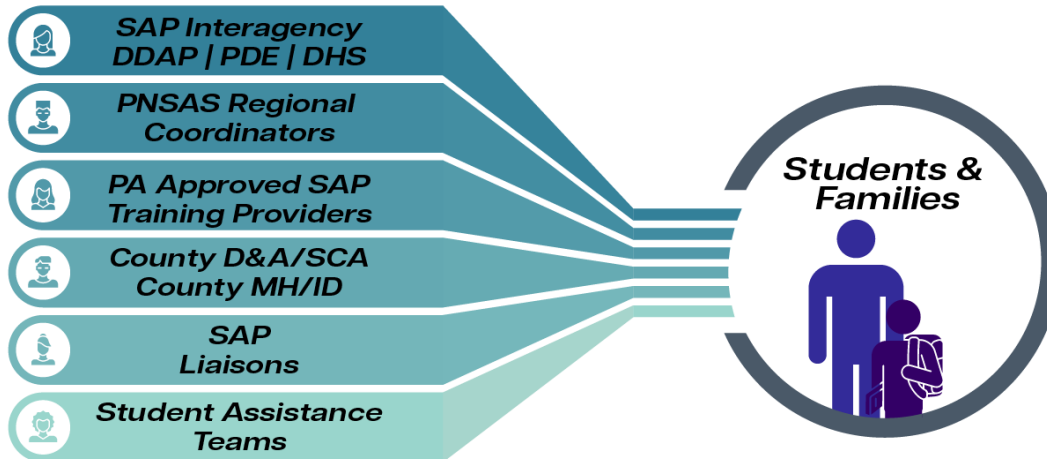# Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program (SAP) Infrastructure

The various systems supporting SAP in Pennsylvania are interconnected. Communication and coordination among these systems is key to student success. Components of the SAP infrastructure includes:

Student and Family – The student is the focus. The family is an integral part of the planning and implementation of the supports for the student.

Student Assistance Program Team –The members of the SAP team are professionally trained. The team includes school staff and liaisons from community drug and alcohol and mental health agencies. SAP team members are trained to identify issues, determine whether the presenting issue lies within the responsibility of the school, and to make recommendations to assist the student and the family. When the issue lies beyond the scope of the school, the SAP team will assist the parent(s)/family and student so they may access services within the community. SAP team members do not diagnose, treat or refer to treatment, but they may refer a student to a SAP liaison who may screen or assess for mental health and/or substance use concerns and make recommendations for further community-based services and support.

SAP Liaisons - Provided by the county drug and alcohol and mental health/developmental services (MH/DS) offices, SAP liaisons have behavioral health knowledge and support the SAP teams by providing the linkage to community resources to help support the students and

families. A letter of agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of both the liaisons and the schools in assisting students and families in the SAP process. For example, with parental permission, the SAP liaison may provide a screening or assessment to the student, if warranted.

County Drug and Alcohol (Single County Authority) and County MH/DS Offices – Provide oversight of the implementation of SAP liaison services within their counties. Some county offices provide additional supports to the school's student assistance programs such as funding for SAP training. These services and the SAP liaison services vary by county.
County offices have a role in the collaboration of SAP services which is done through SAP coordination teams. The mission of SAP coordination teams, which involve representatives from multiple systems, is to provide the leadership, planning, and coordination necessary to implement effective SAP services at the county or county joinder level.

Pennsylvania Approved Student Assistance Training Providers (PASTP) – Conducts Pennsylvania approved SAP K-12 training that is required for all SAP team members.

Regional Coordinators – Regional Coordinators are part of the Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS), which provides statewide oversight and support for SAP. They provide technical assistance and support to County D&A (SCA) and County MH/DS, SAP liaisons, and SAP teams.

Interagency - A collaboration of three state departments (Drug and Alcohol Programs/ Division of Prevention and Treatment, Education/Office for Safe Schools and Human Services/Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services) that oversee the Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS) and address policy and procedural issues that affect SAP in Pennsylvania.