



FOUNDATIONS OF STUDENT ASSISTANCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Module for Standard 1
SAP K-12 Bridge Training

Standard 1 - Competencies

- Outline the components of the SAP system. (1.a.1)
- Review the paradigm shifts and subsequent developments in the PA SAP Model. (1.b.2)
- Review SAP as a systematic process. (1.c.2)
- Outline the legal rights of students and parents. (1.d.2)

SAP Training has changed

- 2012
Student Assistance Program K-12 Training Standards adopted by SAP Interagency Committee.
- 2012 - present
Commonwealth Approved Trainers deliver SAP K-12 Training.
- 2013 - 2014
Bridge Training available for those that currently have an elementary or secondary SAP certificate.
Upon successful completion of the bridge training, a SAP K-12 training certificate will be awarded.
This online training will be available until August 30, 2014.

What is SAP?

A **systematic process** using techniques to mobilize school resources to remove barriers to learning.

A professionally **trained team**, including school staff and liaisons from community alcohol and drug and mental health agencies.

The team will identify problems, determine whether or not the presenting problem lies within the responsibility of the school and to **make recommendations** to assist the student and the parent.

The team **will assist** the parent and student so they may access services within the community, when needed.

The SAP team **may refer** the student for a screening or an assessment for treatment.

The team **will monitor** student progress, provide **follow-up** and **support**.

~ Keep in Mind ~

Student Assistance Program

- Is not a treatment program
- Does not diagnose
- Does not refer for treatment



Key Elements of the Student Assistance Program

- Collaboration & Partnership
- Core Team
- Systematic Process
- Overcoming Barriers to Learning
- Early Identification and Referral
- Problem Solving with Student and Parents
- Strength-Based Approach
- Intervention and On-going Support
- In-school and/or Community Services

Elements For a Successful Student Assistance Program:

1. School District Policy and Administrative Guidelines Supporting Student Assistance
2. On-going Staff Development
3. Program Awareness
4. Problem Solving Team and Case Management
5. Parent Involvement and Active Collaboration
6. Educational Support Groups
7. Integration with Other School Based Programs
8. Cooperation and Collaboration with Community Agencies and Resources
9. Student Assistance Team Program Evaluation

SAP REPORTING/DATA COLLECTION

- 1986 - Reporting from SAP teams started
- 1988 - Present
PDE 4092 online reporting, due June 30
www.safeschools.state.pa.us
- 2009 - Joint Quarterly Reporting by MH and D/A SAP Liaison Agency Providers (JQRS)
www.sap.state.pa.us

Student Assistance Programs and School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS)

- Since 1996, schools in Pennsylvania have begun to implement SWPBIS on a voluntary basis. Today there are approximately 400 school buildings implementing the SWPBIS program. Information is available at: www.papbs.org .
- For schools implementing SWPBIS and SAP, discussions are ongoing regarding how to meet the functions of both programs.
- SAP and SWPBIS professionals are working closely to address issues as they arise.

Student Assistance Programs and School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

- *Practical Guidance for Student Assistance Program Teams Implementing School-Wide Positive Behavior Support*, August 2011 can be located on the SAP website at www.sap.state.pa.us
- You can also contact your SAP Regional Coordinator for assistance in addressing your questions regarding SAP and SWPBIS.

The Three Authorizations of SAP in Schools are:

1. PA Act of 211 and Chapter 12 of the PA School Code
2. School Board
3. SAP written letters of agreement/contracts with agencies

1. PA Act of 211 and Chapter 12 of the PA School Code:

- The law requires each school district to establish and maintain a counseling and support program for students who experience problems related to the use of drug and alcohol.
- The school code includes the planning and provision of SAP in all schools.

2. School Board:

- By establishing the Student Assistance Program/Team which includes agency involvement.
- By adopting formal policies which incorporate SAP (i.e. Drug and Alcohol, MH/Suicide Prevention policies).

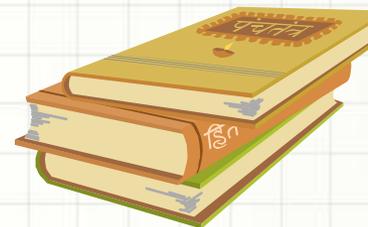
3. Written letters of agreement/contracts with agencies:

- By utilizing agency liaisons.
- By establishing a system for referrals to agencies.
- By sanctioning the delivery of services to students .

Paradigm Shifts since 1997-98

Law amendments and evidence-based approaches necessitated these programmatic changes throughout the years.

- Parent Exclusion **to** Inclusion
- Informing **to** Involving Parents as Decision Makers
- D/A and MH Problems **to** Issues Which Pose a Barrier to Learning and School Success
- Problem Deficit **to** Strengths-Based Approach
- Training Hours **to** Competency-Based Training
- Referral for Treatment **to** Referral for Assessment
- Boundaries Clarification **between** School's Role and Agency's Role
- SAP Training Transitioned from Separate Elementary and Secondary **to** Comprehensive K-12 Training





Overview of SAP System

What is PNSAS?

P – Pennsylvania

N – Network (for)

S – Student

A – Assistance

S – Services

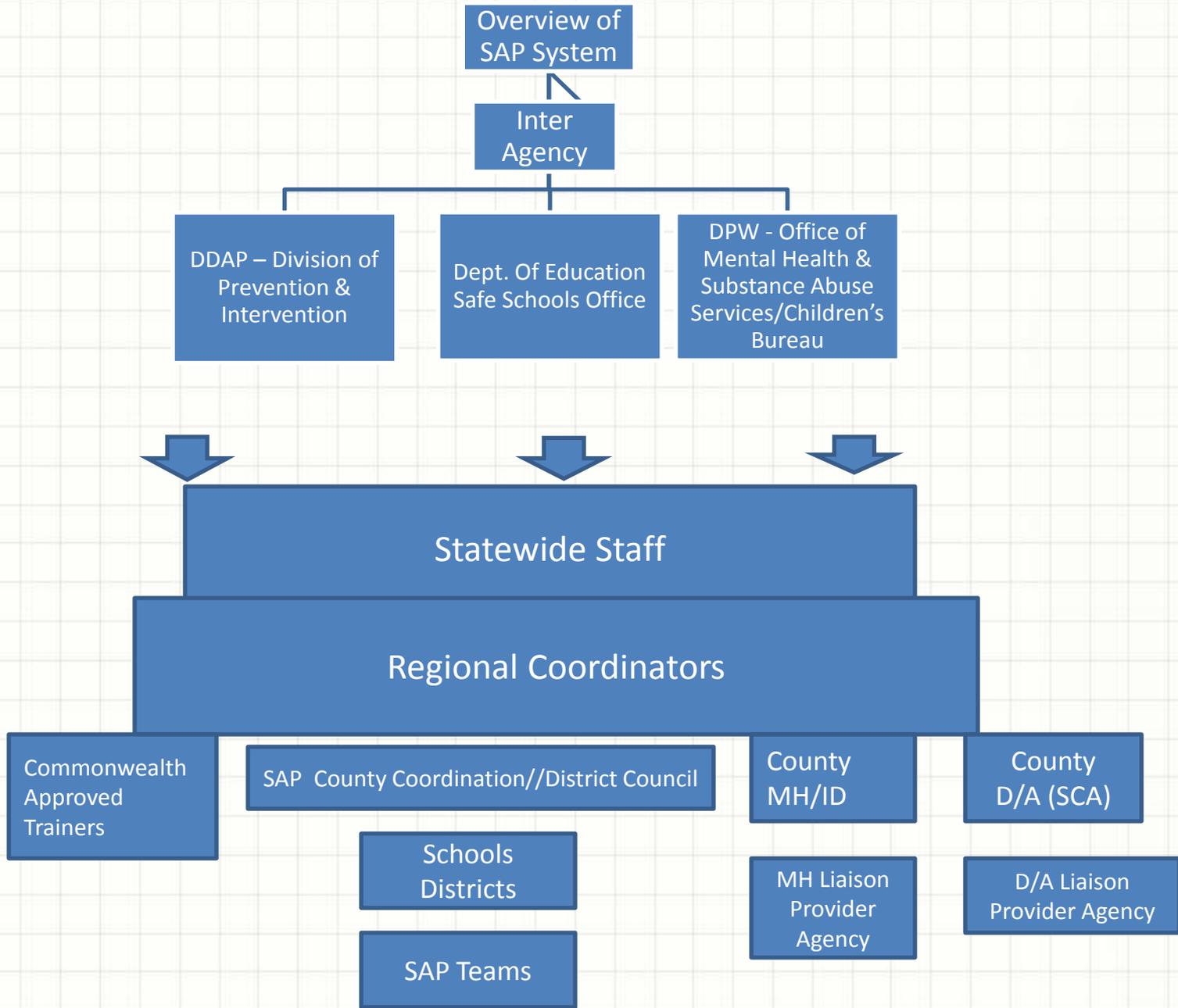
The Mission of PNSAS is:

- To provide leadership for developing a safe and drug-free environment and mental health wellness in schools and communities.
- To remove barriers to learning and to enhance student academic achievement through collaborative prevention, intervention, and post-intervention services.

PNSAS Staff is Comprised of:

- Commonwealth SAP Interagency Committee
- Statewide Staff Members
- SAP Regional Coordinators

www.sap.state.pa.us





What are the Pertinent School Laws and Regulations that Impact SAP?

Schools and Agencies

- Each have statutory base
- Different relationship to minors
- Have clear aspects in applying confidentiality laws and release of records

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- A federal law that protects the privacy rights of student education records.
- Parents have the right to:
 - Inspect & review educational records
 - Seek to amend educational records
 - Have control over disclosure of information from education records

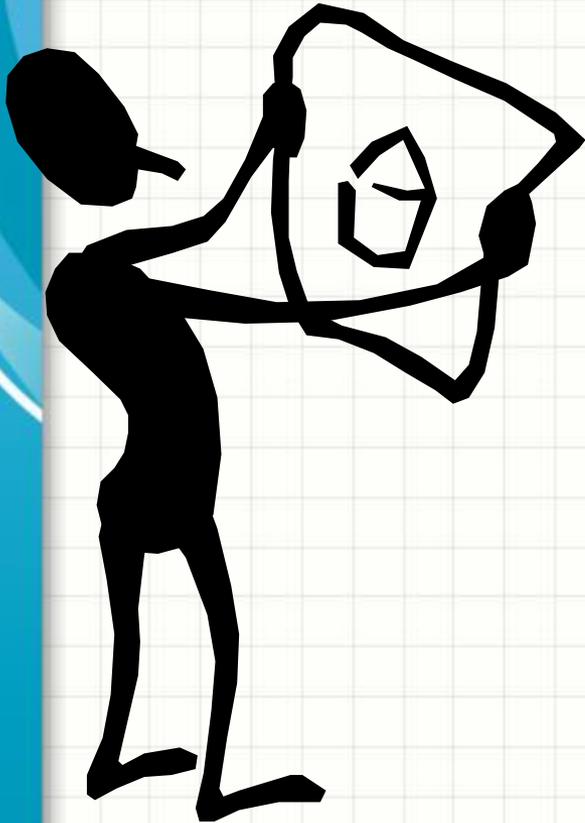
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- School must have written permission before releasing any education records.

Except to those school officials with legitimate educational interest; other schools where the student is transferring; appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and to state and local juvenile authorities pursuant to state law.

An Educational Record is?

- Any school document that contains information directly related to the student
- Maintained by educational agency or by a party acting for the agency or institution
- Includes records on student receiving services under IDEIA
- Also includes medical and disciplinary records



What is included in a Student SAP Record?

- Statements in a student's referral/behavioral checklist should meet three criteria:
 - specific
 - verifiable
 - behaviorally oriented
- Written statements should be objective, observable and measurable
- Include - Academics, Behavior, Health, Attendance

Student Record

Written Information

- Maintained in a secure location, such as locked file cabinet with restricted access
- SAP records are category “B” data
- Only accessible to those with legitimate educational interest
- Parents have the right to see files

Oral Communications

- Other team members
- School officials and educators with a legitimate educational interest

Protection of Pupil Rights Act (PPRA)

No student shall be required as a part of any ED-funded program to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveal information concerning:

1. political affiliations
2. mental and psychological problems of student or student's family
3. sex behavior or attitudes
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
5. critical appraisals of individuals with whom respondents have close family relationship
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships (lawyers, physicians, ministers)
7. income
8. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of student or student's parents

Mental Health Procedures Act 55

PA Code

- Protects confidentiality records of person receiving treatment by requiring written consent prior to releasing records.
- If client is under the age of 14 the client's parent or guardian will control the release of records.
- Clients 14 years of age or older that understand the nature of documents to be released and purpose for releasing them shall control release of records.
- Youth ages 14-18 that seek treatment, notice of this treatment will be given to parent/guardian.
- Either a minor child or the minor's parent may lawfully consent to voluntary outpatient mental health care.

Amendment to MH Procedures Act – Act 147 of 2004

- A minor age 14-18 can consent to outpatient mental health examination and treatment or inpatient for himself/herself without parental consent.
- A parent of a minor less than 18 years of age may consent to voluntary outpatient mental health examination or treatment, on behalf of the minor and the minor's consent shall not be necessary.
- The person who consents to treatment has the right to release records.
- If the 14-18 year old consents, the parents/legal guardian has the right to information but not records.

PA Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act 63

- Patient records shall remain confidential and only be disclosed with consent of the person receiving treatment.
- Consent of parent/guardian is not necessary for a minor to seek or receive treatment.
- No age specified in the law for minors to seek drug and alcohol services.