



PNSAS SAP CONNECTION

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www.pnsas.org

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY PA NETWORK FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES

FAQ Corner

Do We Have to? (Requirements for SAP)

For SAP Teams: We all know there are a lot of different programs and committees in schools. Many administrators and staff are struggling to determine which programs to support. Some programs, like SAP, are both required and needed! Given the needs of our youth, it is especially important to make sure your team is up and running effectively. The following are excerpts from the SAP Frequently Asked Questions and Answers Document (SAP FAQ) available by clicking [here](#).

1. Are all school districts, charter schools, and cyber charter schools required to have a Student Assistance Program (SAP)?

Yes, all school entities are required to have SAP for grades K-12.

Pursuant to the PA School Code of 1949 Sections 1547, 1732-A, and 1749-A, 24 PS §§ 15-1547, 17-1732-A, 17-1749-A, and 22 Pa. Code §§ 12.16, 12.42, a "school entity" is defined as a local public education provider (i.e., public school, charter school, cyber charter school, career and technical center or intermediate unit).

3. What happens if a school entity does not have an SAP team?

If a school entity does not have "a program to provide appropriate counseling and support services for students experiencing problems with drugs, alcohol, and dangerous substances" (i.e., SAP services), the school entity is in violation of section 1547 of the School Code and 22 Pa. Code 12.42. If PDE or PNSAS is notified that a school entity is not making SAP available to all K-12 students, staff will contact the school entity to offer technical assistance and may subsequently schedule a site visit. PDE and PNSAS will provide technical assistance to help the school entity come into compliance with the requirements of section 1547 of the School Code and 22 Pa. Code Chapter 12. School entities that do not provide required student services may assume liability for the failure to do so.

There is always help if you need it! The PA Network for Student Assistance Services will be happy to assist you in getting your team up and running or to help you make it more effective. Contact your SAP regional coordinator for assistance.



SAP Interagency

[Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs \(DDAP\)](#)

[PA Department of Education \(PDE\)](#)

[Department of Human Services \(DHS\)](#)



Training Opportunities

SAP Training - For upcoming training opportunities, click [here](#).

Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals (PASAP) Annual Conference - To be held 2/25/24-2/27/24 in State College - click [here](#) for details.



Grants

For open PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant opportunities, click [here](#).



Information

PSA Contest for Youth Suicide Prevention - Prevent Suicide PA is once again hosting the annual PSA contest for high school students. Engage students in dialogue around suicide prevention, the importance of positive messaging, and communicating effectively. Entries for video, audio, or poster PSAs are due no later than December 15th. Details are now available [here](#).

Children's Interagency Conference - The 21st Children's Interagency Conference is scheduled for April 2024 in State College, PA. The conference theme is "Shine The Light on Mental Health-- Building Youth Wellness & Resilience." The conference will provide an excellent opportunity for participants to learn about changing trends, promising and best practices, resources, and various system of care activities across Pennsylvania. Please visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

Liaison Corner

Have you seen it? (SAP Letters of Agreement)

It's important that all SAP team members review letters of agreement. Sometimes these are negotiated and signed by SAP liaison agency administrators, county funders, and school district administrators, however, liaisons and team members may not have been a part of the process. All team members should have input into their development and be given the final copies. The questions below will help teams and liaisons with this process.

1. What should be in the letter of agreement and how detailed should it be?

The letter of agreement should reflect the role and scope of both the agency and school district related to what each will do over the course of the school year. A copy of the letter of agreement should be shared with the SAP Team and liaison. It should include:

Agency:

- number of days, hours and times per school year that the agency provides services
- attendance at team meetings
- diagnostic assessments (if applicable)
- linkage to treatment/community services,
- follow up support to students
- facilitation of psycho-educational groups (if applicable),
- crisis intervention
- assistance with district policy in times of emergency

District:

- complies with state guidelines
- necessary student information (including compiled behavior checklist, discipline records, nurse, and guidance records, etc.)
- a confidential area for screening/assessment
- locked cabinet for SAP records
- access to telephone in a private area
- a representative from the school district to participate in County Coordination and/or District Council meetings
- submission of required online SAP data reporting

A sample letter of agreement is available at www.pnsas.org under About SAP>PA Approved SAP Training Provider>Resources

These are helpful topics to discuss at the beginning of each school year, so there are no discrepancies with expectations. When in doubt, review the LOA with your SAP team to keep communication open about what services a liaison will be providing. Contact your [regional coordinator](#) for assistance if needed.