**Purpose**

The North East School District has established its commitment to healthy student growth and development. It continues to recognize the need for an appropriate student assistance program that will deal with at-risk student behaviors among the student population.

**Definition**

Student Assistance Program (SAP) - a systematic process using effective and accountable professional techniques to mobilize school resources to remove the barriers to learning and, when the problem is beyond the scope of the school, to assist the parent/guardian and student with information so they may access services within the community.[1]

**Authority**

The Board shall provide a Student Assistance Program (SAP) that assists district employees in identifying issues and providing assistance to students experiencing difficulties in learning and academic achievement.[2][3]

**Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop, implement, maintain and monitor a Student Assistance Program (SAP) that complies with state regulations.

The North East School District program shall be implemented by the North East Support Team (NEST) in coordination with the prevention, intervention and outpatient components of the drug and alcohol services of Pyramid Healthcare. In addition, the ongoing assistance of local community service agencies shall be sought in order to best meet the needs of each individual student.

**Guidelines**

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) shall provide assistance in:

1. Identifying issues that pose a barrier to a student’s learning and/or academic achievement.
2. Determining whether or not the identified problem lies within the responsibility of the school.

3. Informing the parent/guardian of a problem affecting the student's learning and/or academic achievement.

4. Making recommendations to assist the student and the parent/guardian.

5. Providing information on community resources and options to deal with the problem.

6. Establishing links with resources to help resolve the problem.

7. Collaborating with the parent/guardian and agency when students are involved in treatment through a community agency.

8. Providing a plan for in-school support services for the student during and after treatment.

**Legal**

1. 22 PA Code 12.16
2. 24 P.S. 1547
3. 22 PA Code 12.42
22 PA Code 12.41
42 Pa. C.S.A. 8337
20 U.S.C. 1232g
34 CFR Part 99

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