PNSAS
SAP CONNECTION
OCTOBER 2024
www.pnsas.org
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY PA NETWORK FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Referral: Initial Review of Referral and Assigning a Case Manager

This year's SAP articles will focus on the four phases of SAP. The PA Network for Student Assistance Services has updated SAP training. These articles will review essential tasks in each phase and highlight any changes in the new training model. The four phases of SAP are: referral, data collection, action planning, and follow-up.

Team initial review of referral

Schools have a duty to care, warn, and protect all students. When the school has multiple teams, it is important to establish referral pathways based on the scope of each team. Teams need to have ways to communicate with one another while considering of confidentiality and its limits. For each SAP referral, after engaging in initial team discussion, the team may decide that the referral is best handled by another team (e.g., IEP, threat assessment, MTSS, etc.). All other referrals to SAP should proceed into the next phase of data collection to have sufficient information to determine the next steps. In general, SAP teams should continue the referral process by gathering data before dismissing/ rerouting the referral.

When first receiving a referral, it is important to distinguish between a SAP referral and a crisis referral or more imminent concern that warrants immediate action. Crisis referrals need to be submitted to the proper team/ staff immediately. Determine whether the SAP team is the only team to address the referral, or if the referral should be routed to another school-based team first. It is important for the team and stakeholders to understand what constitutes a crisis. A situation involving suspected abuse or neglect should follow the Child Protective Services Law prior to making a SAP referral.

You may want to work with your school administration to ensure clear referral pathways and communications with other school-based teams.

Assigning a SAP Team Case Manager

Every referral should be assigned a SAP Team Case Manager as one of the first steps after initially reviewing the referral. SAP Team Case Managers are responsible for collecting/ managing paperwork for assigned referrals. They ensure the process is followed for their select case(s). SAP Team Case Managers are school staff who sit on the team. Consider selecting a Case Manager who has a connection or existing relationship with the student or family. In the Mock SAP team meeting video, Taylor offered to be the Case Manager for Samantha since he had her in Art Club and felt he had a good relationship with her. The Case Manager should not always be the same team member or a specific staff role (e.g., school counselor) and should be rotated among SAP team members. A Case Manager's relationship can strengthen family engagement throughout the SAP process.

Please reach out to your PNSAS Regional Coordinator for assistance.

SAP Interagency

Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP)

PA Department of Education (PDE)

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Training & Networking Opportunities

SAP Training - For upcoming training opportunities, click **here**.

Grants

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

Announcements

Standardized 2-Day SAP K-12 Training

SAP training has been standardized across the state of PA. The updated 2-day training is now available for new SAP team members everywhere and Act 48 and Act 45 credits are available.
Review all SAP K-12 Trainings available and access registration information here.

SAP Retraining & Refresher

This new training opportunity is being offered by PNSAS as a free 1 hour virtual retraining covering parts of the revised training, including: the new four phase SAP process, updated best practices, and revised SAP terminology.
*All Fall sessions are currently full!
If you are interested and were unable to register before sessions closed, please reach out to your Regional Coordinator to inquire about availability of additional sessions.

SAP Fidelity Checklist

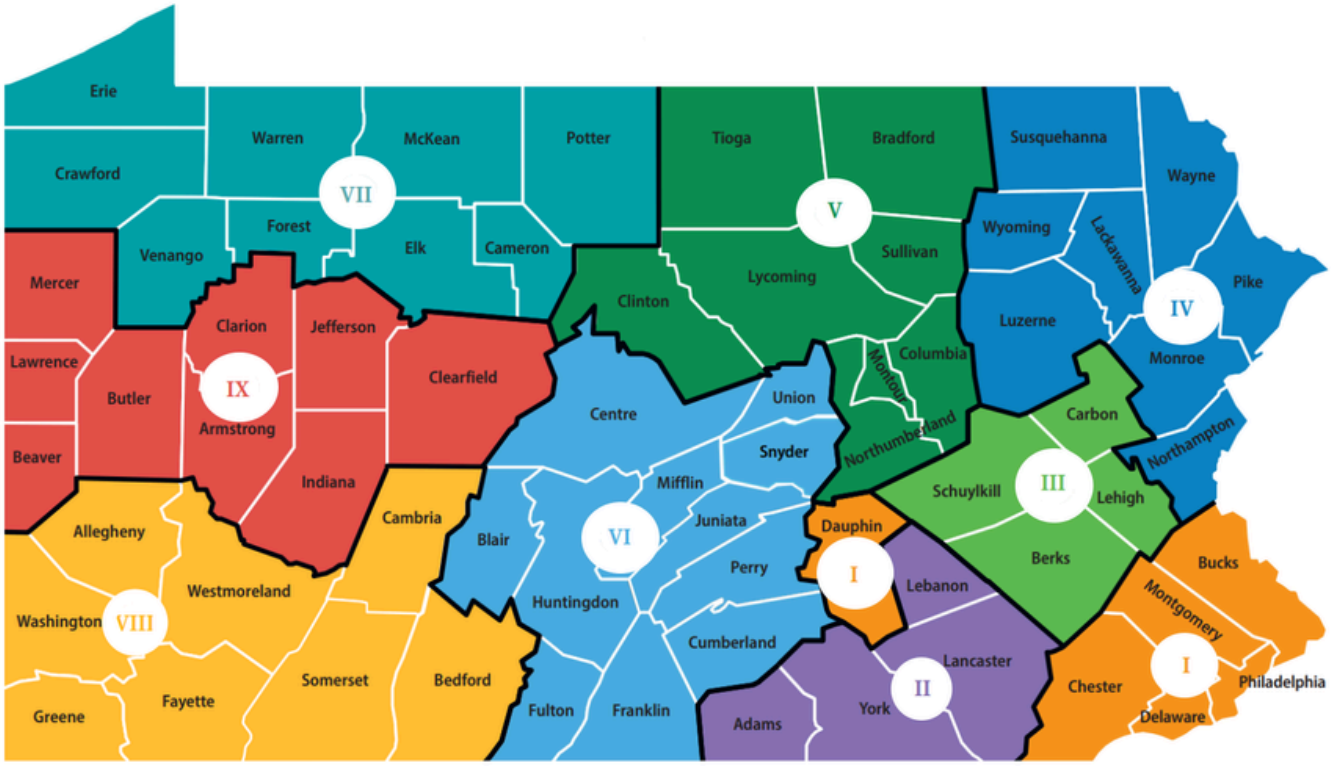
The SAP Fidelity Checklist has been updated and it is now available on the PNSAS website. This document is a useful resource for annual maintenance or when evaluating your team's adherence to best practices and fidelity of the SAP model. If you'd like assistance with maintenance or best practices, please reach out to your Regional Coordinator for assistance.

2025 PSA Contest for Youth Suicide Prevention

Prevent Suicide PA is excited to announce the 13th annual PSA contest for high school students. This is a great opportunity to engage students in a dialogue around suicide prevention, the importance of positive messaging, and communicating effectively.
The 2025 contest will be announced on Monday, September 16, 2024. All submissions are due by Friday, December 20th, 2024. This year we are introducing a deadline for students who would like feedback on their submissions. Students who would like our feedback on their PSAs before they are judged must submit their PSAs by Friday, December 6th, 2024. Contest rules and submission guidelines will be available on the PSA website soon.
We're introducing a PSA Contest Toolkit. This toolkit includes updated rules and submission guidelines, tips on how to promote the contest, social media shareables, and a list of suicide prevention resources. All the winning and honorable mention PSAs from previous years are available for free public use including 2024 winners here. These are great resources to use during Suicide Prevention Month (September) and throughout the year.

October is Prevention Month!

Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA) is collaborating with the Cross Systems Prevention Network (CPSN) to host a new advocacy campaign to highlight Prevention Month. Check out "My Prevention Story", a campaign dedicated to celebrating the power of personal stories in shaping our communities' future through prevention. Every story shared contributes to a collective effort to build stronger, healthier environments where everyone can thrive. Through the voices of community members, CPA highlights the importance of protective factors in preventing substance misuse and promoting well-being. More resources are available at the PAStart website.



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Pennsylvania Student Assistance Programs 2023-24

PA Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS)

96,518
Referrals

33.1%
of referrals are for Elementary SAP (31,984)

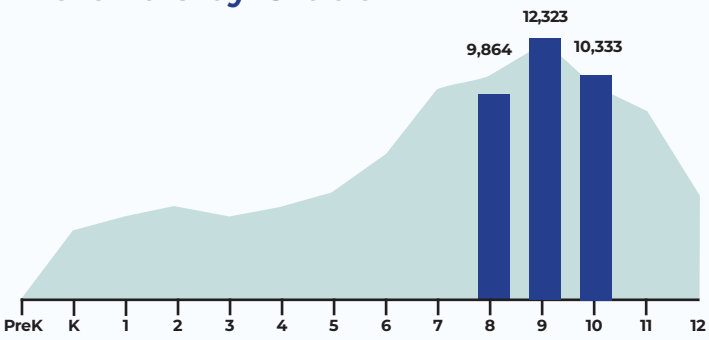
Top 4 Incoming Referral Sources

1. Instructional Staff: 29,783
2. School Mental Health Professionals: 23,713
3. Non-Instructional Staff: 10,436
4. Disciplinarian: 10,349

Top 3 Primary School Services Recommended by Core Team

1. Group Intervention: 10,062
2. One-to-One Counseling with School Counselor and/or School Psychologist: 9,274
3. One-to-One Follow-Up with Team Member or Other School Psychologist: 9,071

Referrals by Grade*



*Highest three grades shown. Grey area reflects total for each grade.

Top 3 Primary Community Services Recommended by Core Team

1. No Primary Community/Agency Services Recommended: 15,497
2. Screening by Mental Health SAP Liaison: 10,080
3. Screening by Behavioral Health SAP Liaison: 8,636

Top 3 Referral Reasons

1. Externalizing Behaviors: 23,996
2. Internalizing Behaviors: 17,493
3. Other: 12,688

Top 3 Primary Recommendations from Screening

1. Mental Health Assessment: 6,231
2. One-to-One with Mental Health Liaison: 4,600
3. Behavioral Health Assessment: 2,764

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SAP SINCE 1984-1985 IN PENNSYLVANIA

Data obtained through the PDE 4092. Figures aggregated from the 1,995 schools that reported SAP referral data during the 2023-2024 reporting effort. The PDE 4092 is the web-based Student Assistance Programs (SAP) reporting form submitted annually by school SAP teams and records each SAP referral made over the course of one school year.