



# STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**The Goal of a Family/Student  
Assistance Partnership is to  
encourage and support student  
success in school.**

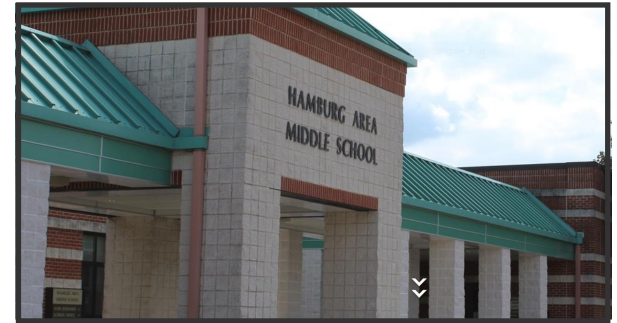
The student assistance team tries at all times to form a respectful family/ school partnership in order to best work together. The family and school share the common goal of supporting student success.

As in all good partnerships, both parties have rights and responsibilities. Our SAP team provides the family concrete information regarding observable student behaviors in school. The team also offers help in identifying learning barriers and suggests resources and available options.

Through this partnership, our school and families work together to *encourage and support student success*.



HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



**HAMBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
S.A.P.**

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## **WHAT IS THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ?**

Student Assistance Programs in Pennsylvania help schools identify students who are experiencing behavior and/or academic difficulties which pose a barrier to their learning and success in school. SAP offers support to those students and their families.

The Student Assistance Program is a team of school employees who have received specialized training from the Commonwealth of PA approved SAP training providers.

One of the most important tasks of the SAP team is to build a working partnership with families to focus on the student's success as the common goal.

In cases where the problem lies beyond the limits and capabilities of the school, the SAP team will assist families in identifying options for professional support and resources within the community.

Participation in the Student Assistance Program is voluntary, but is offered as a source for help and support for the student and family.

## **FAMILIES AND STUDENT ASSISTANCE**

### **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

There are several basic steps that the SAP team takes to build an effective partnership with families. The student assistance team contacts the family as soon as they receive information indicating that school performance is being affected. The first contact is often made by phone, and the family is invited to share information, observations, student strengths and common concerns.

With permission of the family, a member of the student assistance team may then meet with the student to gather further information, or the team and family may meet with the student to discuss the barrier to learning. Next, the SAP Team helps the family learn about options or resources both in and out of school that may be helpful to the student. The family then decides on a plan of action they find most suitable for their child. This plan may or may not include the Student Assistance Team. Whatever the decision, the family and the SAP team try to maintain on-going communication to monitor the student's progress and success in school.

If a family does not want their child to work with the Student Assistance Team, they are invited to contact the team at any time in the future should the situation or their wishes change.

## **SCHOOLS NEED FAMILIES ...**

## **FAMILIES NEED SCHOOLS...**

**An ideal partnership between the family and student assistance team includes:**

- *A shared goal of helping the student*
- *Mutual respect*
- *Appreciation and identification of students and families strengths, ideas, feelings and culture*
- *Open communication*
- *Joint problem solving*
- *Shared responsibilities for follow-through*

## **BARRIERS TO LEARNING**

**Some of the barriers to learning that students may experience include:**

- *Depression or Anxiety*
- *Grief due to death or separation*
- *Emotional disorders*
- *Aggression toward or from others*
- *The use of or pressure to use: alcohol, tobacco or drugs*