For more information about the Student Assistance Program contact:
Phone: 610-278-3642
Email: kkucz@montcopa.org
www.montcopa.org/1339/Drug-Alcohol

The Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol is committed to the prevention and treatment of substance abuse in Montgomery County. Services are delivered in a partnership with qualified providers and guided by a philosophy that imparts hope, respect and support for recovery.

The Children’s Mental Health Service System in Montgomery County is guided by the Child and Adolescent Services System Program (CASSP) and System of Care (SOC) philosophies and practices of resiliency. The concept of resiliency prompts strengths based approaches to build self-esteem and life success. Montgomery County is committed to the development of an integrated system of care that empowers youth, families, and all systems to be responsible and accountable for outcomes that lead to the fulfillment of hopes and dreams.
What is the Student Assistance Program?

The Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program (SAP) trains school staff to identify alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues that act as barriers to a student’s success. Students can then be connected with resources. The primary goal of SAP is to help students overcome barriers, remain in school, and advance academically.

Why Might a Child be Referred to the Program?

- Withdrawing from family, friends, and/or activities
- Changing friends
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Feeling sad
- Talking about suicide
- Defying authority, both at home and school
- Acting aggressively
- Declining grades
- Experimenting with alcohol or drugs

The Student Assistance Program is Not a Treatment Program

The SAP program is an intervention and referral process. Services may include consultation, referrals to school SAP teams and SAP liaisons, risk assessments, in-school prevention and intervention support for students, and referrals for additional supports in communities/out of school.

Parents are invited and encouraged to be partners in all phases of the program.

Payment for Services

There is no charge for participation in the SAP program. The program is funded through Montgomery County’s Offices of Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health.

Financing of follow-up treatment services is not covered as a part of a SAP intervention. Students and families without private insurance, ineligible for Medical Assistance or other third party payment, may apply for public funding through the county system.

How can a Child be Referred to the Program?

Anyone can refer a student to the SAP program including friends, family, teachers, and other school staff.

Consent from the student’s parent must be obtained before initiating any interventions. Once permission is obtained, a plan will be developed to assist the child based upon their need. Participation in the program is voluntary.