

Elementary Student Assistance Program

The Elementary Student Assistance Process (ESAP) is a blending of best practices from the Student Assistance Program (SAP) and Instructional Support Team process (IST) with a focus on parental involvement. Both the SAP and IST models have components that are very valuable. This proposed model intends to complement existing structures rather than create new ones. By combining these components, districts can provide services to at-risk students more effectively and efficiently.

Elementary SAP will assist schools in developing a comprehensive response to the complex issues that elementary students face. These include improving academic achievement by removing barriers to learning, promoting safer educational environments, improving attendance and behavior by building better connections with students and their families.

The challenge, then, is to provide essential elements that define and differentiate the proposed Pennsylvania ESAP model from prior models. In an informal review of elementary programs throughout the Commonwealth, teams appeared to be dealing with three major types of concerns: A) Academic B) Behavior C) Caring Concerns (At- risk).

Critical elements that are included in the ESAP program include a process that starts with an initial request for assistance through follow-up and support of the student. Woven throughout this process are two important elements: parental involvement and the use of developmentally appropriate strategies. These elements and components are important to the success of the implementation of ESAP in the school.