

Frequently Asked Questions: Continuum of SAP Services

How can SAPs 'Build Awareness'?



- SAPs can build awareness through universal programming, social marketing, training, or promotional materials.
- Awareness activities can educate staff, students, families, and the community on non-academic barriers to learning including mental health concerns, behavioral health concerns, substance use and misuse, and family and relationship concerns; how the SAP and referral process works; and the benefits of SAP services.

What are 'Prevention' services?



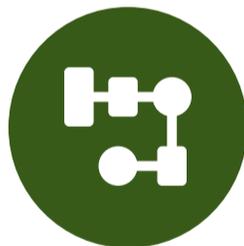
- Prevention services are offered to prevent or reduce the risk of developing a mental health or substance use disorder by providing students with the information and skills necessary to prevent concerns.
- Prevention services can include universal prevention programs and practices, conflict mediation training, education support groups, student leadership training, mentoring programs, referral to community service providers, and prevention support groups.

Why are 'Screening' and 'Early Identification' important?



- It is important to use a standardized process for screening all students and identifying students who show risk factors for mental health or substance use or early warning signs so that they can be referred for additional evaluation and/or appropriate services.

What is a SAP's role in the 'Referral' process?



- SAPs should have a systematic referral process in place to link students with presenting with social, emotional, behavioral, or substance use difficulties with SAP and community-based services.
- Access to school or community services provides students with the assistance they need to overcome concerns with both their academic and overall development.

What are 'Intervention' services?



- Intervention services include programs or practices that are provided in an effort to promote well-being or prevent or reduce mental health concerns.
- Interventions may be designed to enhance protective factors, minimize risk factors, or develop skills/assets across the multi-tiered services of support.

What are 'Guided Support' services?



- Guided support services include ongoing SAP case management to engage students in the SAP process and keep them involved in services, monitor if they are making progress on identified goals and if academic, social-emotional, and behavioral functioning has improved, and make adjustments in the programs and services accordingly.

How can SAPs ensure confidentiality?



- The SAP is subject to federal and state privacy regulations and laws and should respect the family's and students' right to privacy at all times.
- The SAP should carefully plan for keeping student information secure and confidential, securely storing documents, and obtaining releases of information to facilitate school-agency communication and collaboration.