School Based Drug and Alcohol Outpatient Treatment Services

Frequently Asked Questions

What does "school based" mean? School Based services (mental health or drug and alcohol) are outpatient services provided in a school setting or environment. Essentially, the school building is identified as a satellite outpatient clinic; the school based provider must comply with all regulations just as a community outpatient treatment facility.

How is a student's confidentiality protected?
A student, regardless of age, is protected by Federal Confidentiality Law 42 CFR and PA Code 255.5, which states information can only be shared with a consent form signed by the student and information is restricted to be released only to the individual identified on the consent form. Information released is restricted to the following: whether or not the individual is or is not in treatment; the individual's prognosis; the nature of the project; a brief description of the individual progress and whether an individual has relapsed.

How are students/youth referred to school based drug and alcohol treatment services? Since outpatient drug and alcohol treatment services are the least restrictive level of care, there are a few ways in which school based outpatient services can be accessed: This process begins through a SAP referral. Once a student is identified with a behavioral concern and the SAP process is initiated, a SAP liaison screening is recommended. Upon receipt of parental consent, a liaison screening will occur.

- From the SAP liaison screening, if a student is recommended for drug and alcohol assessment and a level of care determination; the parent must sign a consent form for the assessment and the student is then scheduled for an assessment with the drug and alcohol case manager during the school day. If preferred, the parent can contact the drug and alcohol case management unit to schedule the assessment at the office.
- A student receiving community based outpatient services can choose to transfer to school based outpatient treatment services by initiating the SAP process and following the designated steps.

Is a SAP liaison screening required for youth requiring school based drug and alcohol outpatient services? Although the liaison screening is not required, it is required that a student go through the SAP process to be involved with school based drug and alcohol treatment. A liaison screening will ensure that referrals are appropriate.

What is the funding for school based outpatient drug and alcohol services? School based outpatient drug and alcohol services are funded by the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. and are at NO COST to the parent or school. If applicable, publicly insured individuals who have the Medicaid HMO, Value Behavioral Health can be utilized for school based treatment services.

What is the process for students that do not have insurance to pay for outpatient services? Uninsured individuals will be funded through the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. and incur no cost to the family or the school district.

If a student is recommended for drug and alcohol treatment and becomes involved with school based drug and alcohol treatment services, are there any negative consequences to the student for their involvement? NO. School based treatment is to help a student and is not a punitive action.

If a student violates a school district's drug and alcohol policy, what is the procedure for receiving drug and alcohol treatment? The student can receive a drug and alcohol assessment from the SAP drug and alcohol case manager. Drug and alcohol treatment recommendations are provided to the student. Most school districts require the student to comply with the level of care recommendation from this assessment.