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# Student Assistance Program Liaison Outreach Newsletter

ANNOUNCEMENTS, RESOURCES AND RAISING AWARENESS

## November/December 2023 Newsletter

Many of our SAP teams across many school districts are working on an integration that includes Multi-Tiered System/Positive Behavioral Interventions (MTSS/PBIS) and SAP. Below is some information that the state is sharing on best practices for aligning the two systems together:



### Practical Guidance for Exploring the Integration and Alignment of the Student Assistance Program with a Multi-Tiered Framework of Support

#### Integration and Alignment Steps Analysis

The graphic below represents actionable milestones associated with the integration and alignment of SAP and MTSS/PBIS. The graphic highlights key features associated with each phase of the change process, drawn from implementation science, that help to assess readiness (Fixen et al., 2018).

### Integration Steps Analysis



#### EXPLORATION

- Readiness and Planning
- Teaming
- Common Referral Process
- Family Engagement, Consent, and Confidentiality
- Data-based Decision-making and Documentation

#### INSTALLATION

- Team structure with clear roles and meeting dates
- Resources identified and secured
- Work plans developed to include data and documentation systems, referral mechanisms, evaluation system
- Staff/team training needs determined

#### INITIAL

#### IMPLEMENTATION

- Timeline set for roll-out and scale-up
- Problem-solving protocol developed
- Meeting schedule set
- Stakeholder training and communication system
- Set plan to monitor fidelity
- Ongoing professional development

#### FULL IMPLEMENTATION

- Resources identified and secured
- Work plans developed to include data and documentation systems, referral mechanisms, evaluation system
- Staff/team training needs determined

Please contact your SAP Regional Coordinator and/or your local facilitator from the PaPBIS Network or PaTAN with questions about the contents of the guidance document or for support with your integration and alignment efforts.



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#### What is SAP:

The Student Assistance Program provides screenings and recommendations for students in contracted school districts who are experiencing barriers in their learning. The goal of the program is to identify students who need extra supports for behavioral, social, academic, substance use, and emotional needs.

**Please contact your school Principal or Counselor if you think your child/student would benefit from SAP.**

Check out our website to learn more about SAP and Allegheny Children's Initiative: <https://alleghenychildrens.org/our-services/student-assistance-program/>

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#### The purpose of this document

is to provide considerations and practical strategies for school leadership teams seeking to create an integrated structure for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) and frameworks reflecting multi-tiered logic (e.g., MTSS/PBIS). The document highlights actions and considerations for schools that have not yet begun or are in early stages of the integration and alignment process.

#### Areas explored in the document:

- Readiness and Planning
- Teaming
- Common Referral Process
- Family Engagement, Consent, and Confidentiality
- Data-based Decision-making and Documentation

#### Examples of Guiding Questions for Schools

- Which initiatives (e.g., SAP, MTSS, PBIS) are currently being implemented with fidelity and in which buildings?
- What do team structures, roles, and responsibilities look like at each tier?
- What are the referral mechanisms and procedures, including routing processes?
- What are the mechanisms for data collection and documentation, including key decision-making points?
- What tools are needed for goal-setting and progress monitoring?
- What are the SAP, MTSS, and PBIS-related training needs of targeted constituency groups?
- What internal and external resources support alignment and integration, and has the LEA engaged in a formal resource mapping process?

#### Valuable Resources for Schools

- National Implementation Research Network: *Initiative Inventory and Process Tool*
- National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support: *Technical Guide for Alignment of Initiatives, Programs and Practices in School Districts*
- Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance Services: *Student Assistance Program Best Practice Guidelines for Fidelity*
- SAP/PBIS Integration Comparison/Contrast Analysis Tool from the Planning for SAP/PBIS Alignment and Merger from the 2017 SAP and PBIS Integration Practical Guidance Document
- National Center for School Mental Health: *School Mental Health Quality Guide: Needs Assessment and Resource Mapping*

## Upcoming Events & Links



### November

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month [National Homeless Youth Awareness Month | The National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(nctsn.org\)](#)

November 30th—National Meth Awareness Day - [NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE AWARENESS DAY - November 30, 2023 - National Today](#)

November 30th—Stay Home Because You are Well Day—[NATIONAL STAY AT HOME BECAUSE YOU'RE WELL DAY - November 30,](#)

### My November Guest,” Robert Frost

My sorrow, when she's here with me, Thinks these dark days of autumn rain Are beautiful as days can be; She loves the bare, the withered tree; She walks the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay. She talks and I am fain to list: She's glad the birds are gone away, She's glad her simple worsted gray Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted trees, The faded earth, the heavy sky, The beauties she so truly sees, She thinks I have no eye for these, And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know The love of bare November days Before the coming of the snow, But it were vain to tell her so, And they are better for her praise.

### December

Seasonal Affective Disorder Month—[How to battle Seasonal Affective Disorder this winter season \(nypost.com\)](#)

December 1st—World AIDS Day [WORLD AIDS DAY - December 1, 2023 - National Today](#)

December 2— National Special Education Day [SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY - December 2, 2023 - National Today](#)