

# MRCS Student Assistance Program

*The Student Assistance Program (SAP) can help children experiencing barriers to learning.*

## **A Guide for Parents/Guardians**

### **What Is SAP?**

A SAP team made up of school and agency staff is available to help you access school and community services for your child. In Pennsylvania, every school district is required to have a plan for identifying and assisting students who experience barriers to learning.

The MRSC SAP team will help you find services and assistance within the school, and if needed, in the community. We do not diagnose, treat, or refer your child for treatment. We will provide you with information and you make the choice(s) that best fit your needs and wishes. As the parent/guardian you are an important part of the team.

### **Do You have any of the following concerns about your child:**

- Attendance/tardiness issues
- Academic performance
- Disruptive behaviors (aggression, talking back, oppositional, etc.)
- Atypical behaviors for your child (seeing a change in behavior that is concerning or significantly different from norm)
- Emotional concerns (anger outbursts, crying, withdrawing, etc.)
- Social concerns (bullying, frequent peer issues, withdrawing from peers, etc.)
- Home/family concerns (divorce, ill family member, moving, death, disaster, etc.)
- Basic needs concerns (food insecurity, housing instability, difficulty with bills, etc.)
- Any physical health or medical concerns (ongoing illness or injury, current medical issues, physical or medical disability)

## **How Does My Child Become Involved in the SAP Program?**

Anyone can refer a child to SAP. Some students are referred by teachers or other school personnel. A friend or family member can also let the SAP team know that they are worried about someone. Schools will gather information to determine how a student is doing in their classes. However, the SAP team will not proceed unless you give your written parent permission. Once permission is received, the SAP team will work with you to develop a plan of action to help your child achieve success in school. Participation in the program is voluntary.

## **What If Someone Has Referred My Child to SAP?**

A SAP team member will contact you regarding your child's referral to the program. Before a SAP team member talks to your child, you will be asked to sign a permission form. The SAP team will work with you and your child throughout the process. As a parent, your knowledge and thoughts about your child will be helpful in developing a plan of action. If you need more information before making a decision about SAP, please feel free to talk to a SAP team member.

## **How Do I Contact the SAP Team?**

If you have any questions about SAP or you feel that your child may need help, contact Ms. Caitlin (School Counselor/SAP Coordinator) via Parent Square.

