
**Early Warning Signs
Of
Alcohol and Other Drug Use, Mental
Health Issues, Or Violence**

Changes in:

- **Academic Performance**
- **Attendance**
- **Participation in extracurricular activities**
- **Normal or usual behavior**
- **Physical Appearance**
- **Friends or social group**
- **Family relationships**

Involvement with the law

Expressed feelings of rejection

Any alcohol or drug-related clothing, jewelry, or art

Uncontrolled anger

Violent and aggressive behaviors

Affiliation with gangs

Fights

Access to or possession of firearms

Intimidating and bullying behaviors

Withdrawal from peers

Picked-on or persecuted

Serious threats of violence

Depressed

Association with drug users

Help Is As Near As the Phone

MCPS Safe and Drug
Free Schools _____ 301-279-3041

Montgomery County
Community Crisis Center _____ 301-315-4000

Montgomery County Hotline _____ 301-738-Call

MCPS Safe Schools
Hotline _____ 301-517-5995

Alcoholics Anonymous _____ 202-966-9115

AA Spanish
Hotline _____ 202-722-4707

AL-Anon and
Alateen _____ 202-882-1334

Narcotics
Anonymous _____ 202-399-5316

Open Door Youth
Runaway Program _____ 301-770-0193

The Prevention
Center _____ 301-929-8550

Party Buster _____ 240-777-1986

Drug Turn-In
Program _____ 240-773-5299

GUIDE Youth Services _____ 301-590-9864 #2

Gaithersburg City Police _____ 301-258-6400

School Community Action

Team Coordinator:

Eileen Shea (301) 963-6628

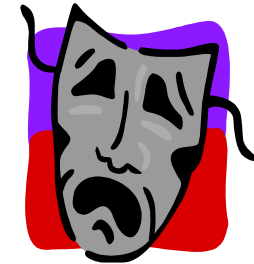
GHS Student Assistance

Team Leader:

Carolann McConaughy (301) 840-4721

GAITHERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

**Student
Assistance
Program**



**It's Not Pretty
DON'T TURN YOUR BACKS**

Montgomery Co. Public Schools
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and
Communities Project

*Committed to helping "at-risk"
students obtain services.*

What Is Student Assistance?

The Student Assistance Program, is a school-based substance use, mental health, and violence intervention program under the auspices of the Montgomery County Public Schools Safe and Drug-Free Schools Project. Student Assistance is focused on prevention through intervention and is not aimed at collecting evidence for criminal prosecution.

What Is the Goal of Student Assistance?

Most substance usage and/or violent behavior takes place off school grounds out of the jurisdiction of school officials, yet many of the effects of this are reflected in students' performance in school. The goal of Student Assistance is to identify adolescents whose behavior, attendance, or grades indicate that they may have problems related to alcohol and/or other drug use or violence. Through the different steps that comprise the Student Assistance process, these-at-risk adolescents are referred for a professional assessment and directed to appropriate services.

How Does Student Assistance Work?

•CONFIDENTIALLY•

Any individual (school staff member, parent, community member, or student) can tell the Student Assistance team about his/her concern for a student. Students may refer themselves. A "Concern Form" is submitted to the Student Assistance team leader and a data collection process begins. Information is studied to determine any possible indicators, such as drop in grades, increase in absences, frequent visits to the nurse or behavior problems. If there are insufficient indicators of a problem, the matter is dropped and all information is destroyed. If, however, the data collected indicates the

need for further assessment, the information is then shared with the student's parent(s)/guardian who are then encouraged to participate in the intervention process. Only the data collected is shared with the parent(s)/guardian. Any information concerning who made the original referral is strictly confidential. A referral may be submitted without revealing the name of the concerned person.

The Student Assistance team may be comprised of administrators, teachers, counselors, security personnel, instructional assistants, building service workers, office personnel, cafeteria workers, the school psychologist, school nurse, attendance secretary, pupil personnel worker, and other staff who may be in contact with students.

If you have concerns about a student, please complete a confidential Concern Form and return it to the Student Assistance locked box in the guidance office, main office or health room.

For More Information...

If you would like further information about Student Assistance, you may contact the team leader at:

GAITHERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL Student Assistance Team

Carolann McConaughy
Edward O'Daniel
Melissa Ashby
Jeanette Blackwood
Paula Marple
Kristina Morris-Sterling
Kathy Liapis

Sandy Derge
Dina Ciccone
John Kopowski
Lisa Clark
Adrian McDaniel
Mike Bucci
Brianna Uribe

School Community Action
Team Coordinator: Eileen Shea

Student Assistance Program Confidential Concern Form

I am concerned about:

Name of Student Grade

Reason for Concern:
(Check all that apply)

- Drop in academic performance
- Increased absence from school
- Destructive behavior against others or self
- Negative attitudes
- Signs of possible alcohol and other drug use
- Change of friends
- Depression, anxiety, frequent mood swings
- Other concerns/comments:

Signature (optional) Date

After completing this form, place it in an envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and place it in the designated box in the guidance office, health room, or main office.
