
Early Warning Signs of Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Mental Health Concerns

Changes in

- Academic performance
- Attendance
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Behavior problems
- Physical appearance
- Friends or social group
- Family relationships

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 weapons

Intimidating and bullying behaviors

Withdrawal from peers

Bullied

Picked-on or persecuted

Threats of violence

Depressed

Association with drug users

Involvement with the law

Help Is As Near As the Phone

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
Safe and Drug Free Schools 301-279-3041

MCPS Safe Schools Hotline 301-517-5995

Montgomery County Crisis Center Hotline 301-738-2255

Montgomery County Immediate Crisis Line 240-777-4000

Montgomery County Screening and Assessment Services
for Children and Adolescents
(free for drug/mental health screening) 240-777-1430

Montgomery County Youth Services:

- Bethesda YMCA Youth Services 301-530-3725
- GUIDE Gaithersburg Youth Services 301-258-6440
- GUIDE Olney Youth Services 301-774-3581
- GUIDE Germantown Youth Services 301-972-0307
- Kensington/Wheaton Youth Services 301-933-2818
- Rockville Youth Services 240-314-8310
- Silver Spring YMCA Youth Services 301-593-1160

Montgomery County Gang Hotline 240-773-GANG

Montgomery County Drug Tip Hotline 240-773-DRUG

Montgomery County Party Information Line
301-670-SAFE

Operation Runaway @ Potomac Ridge 1-800-204-8600

Family Crisis Division 240-773-5424

Cocaine Hotline 1-800-COCAINE

Alcoholics Anonymous 202-966-9115

AA Spanish Hotline 202-722-4707

AL-Anon and Alateen 202-882-1334

Narcotics Anonymous 202-399-5316

Student Assistance

Team Leader: Lynn Goodman

Student Assistance at Thomas S. Wootton High School

Montgomery County Public Schools
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

*Committed to helping at-risk
students succeed in school by
removing barriers to learning*

What Is Student Assistance?

Student Assistance is a school-based substance use and violence intervention program under the auspices of Montgomery County Public Schools Safe and Drug-Free Schools. Student Assistance is focused on prevention through intervention and is not related to collecting “evidence” for criminal prosecution or school discipline.

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 and help 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 school staff member, parent, community member, or student can express concern. Students may refer themselves. A “Concern Form” is submitted to the Student Assistance team leader and a data collection process begins. Behavioral observations are made to determine if indicators, such as drop in grades, increase in absences, or frequent visits to the nurse, indicate problems. If there are insufficient indicators of a problem, the matter is dropped and all data is destroyed. If, however, the data collected indicates the need for further assessment, the data is shared with the student’s parent(s)/guardian who participate in an intervention. Only the behaviors are shared with the parent(s)/guardian. Any information concerning who made the original referral is strictly confidential. A referral or “concern” is often submitted without the concerned person’s name.

• REFERRAL •

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 trained 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 counseling office, health room, or media center.

For More Information...

If you would like further information about Student Assistance, you may contact the team leader at: lenette_s_goodman@mcpsmd.org.

Thomas S. Wootton High School

Student Assistance Team Leader’s Name:

Lynn Goodman

Team Members:

- Barbara Becker
- Melanie Sollenberger
- Jeffrey Steinbach
- Randy Posin
- Michelle Deleo
- Mary Malanauskas
- William Butke

Student Assistance 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
- Bullying others
- Victim of bullying
- Display of violent behavior
- 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 counseling office, health room, or media center.