

**Board Policy JFCI:
STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

It is necessary that public schools ensure a safe, secure, and drug-free environment to create a productive learning climate. Furthermore, Pulaski County Public Schools believes Student Assistance Programs should be designed to establish and support policies and programs that emphasize prevention and the creation of a positive school environment. In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act: Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities, these policies and programs should 1) prevent or reduce violence; 2) prevent or reduce the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs, and delinquency; 3) prevent or reduce delinquency; 4) create a well-disciplined environment conducive to learning that includes consultation between teachers, principals, and other school personnel to identify early warning signs of drug use or violence; 5) provide behavior interventions as part of classroom management strategies; 6) promote the involvement of parents; and 7) promote coordination with community groups and coalitions as well as government agencies.

The purpose of Pulaski County Public School's Student Assistance Program is to provide programs and services that address and meet the needs of all students by delivering PK-12 prevention, intervention, and support services designed to reduce student risk factors, promote protective factors and increase asset development. The nine SAP components set forth by the National Student Assistance Association described below are endorsed by the Pulaski County School Board as the minimum requirements needed to reduce barriers to learning and ensure student success in safe, disciplined and drug-free schools and communities.

School Board Policy - To define the school's role in creating a safe, disciplined and drug-free learning community and to clarify the relationship between student academic performance and the use of alcohol, other drugs, violence and high-risk behavior.

Staff Development - To provide all school employees with the necessary foundation of attitudes and skills to reduce risks, increase protective factors and foster resilience through SAP services.

Program Awareness - To educate parents, students, agencies and the community about the school policy on alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, disruptive behavior and violence and provide information about Student Assistance services that promote resilience and student success.

Internal Referral Process - To identify and refer students with academic and social concerns to a multi-disciplinary problem-solving and case management team.

Problem Solving Team and Case Management - To evaluate how the school can best serve students with academic or social problems through solution-focused strategies.

Student Assistance Program Evaluation - To ensure continuous quality improvement of student assistance services and outcomes.

Educational Student Support Groups - To provide information, support and problem-solving skills to students who are experiencing academic or social problems.

Cooperation and Collaboration with Community Agencies and Resources - To build bridges between schools, parents and community resources through referral and shared case management.

Integration with Other School-Based Program - To integrate student assistance services with other school-based programs designed to increase resilience, improve academic performance and reduce student risk for alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence.

**STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM- COUNSELING AND PREVENTATIVE SERVICES
(CAPS) PROGRAM**

Pulaski County Public Schools recognizes the Student Assistance Program (SAP) model promoted by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Education and the National Student Assistance Association as the best means by which to emphasize prevention and create a positive school environment.

Pulaski County Public Schools recognizes that the primary responsibility for helping student who are involved with substance abuse lies with the students and their parents. However, to reach each child, a supportive school environment is necessary for students who have been involved with substance use/abuse.

The School Board supports substance abuse programs, which may vary in scope according to individual needs. Included among these would be programs for persons who desire more information, and for those who need help with intervention activities and programs.

The School Board supports division efforts to help students during the school day as well as to reinforce programs offered through other agencies. To that end, individual school substance abuse programs should provide group experiences, individual counseling and such other devices as are judged to be necessary by school personnel and other involved agencies.

Alcohol and illegal drug use/abuse shall be prohibited by the Code of Student Conduct in compliance with all applicable federal, state or local requirements.