

About the Student Assistance Program

The Student Assistance Program in Orange Public Schools addresses concerns about addictions in our student community. The goal of our program is to develop a safe, disciplined, and drug free environment. Prevention programs, early identification of high-risk students and intervention services are means of addressing alcohol and drug use, as well as other addictions and their related behaviors.

The Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) provides confidential counseling and help students and their families find appropriate rehabilitation and treatment facilities, when required.

The Student Assistant Counselor's work is primarily *preventative*. On the elementary level, the program includes running social skills groups for all students, facilitating special sub subject groups (drugs, peer pressure, community service) and working very closely with caregivers and teachers. We also help with emergencies, economic issues, and referrals for community service.



Student Assistance at Work for You

Connecting our Students with the
Resources, they Need

The goal of the Orange Student Assistance Program is to assist in developing a safe, disciplined, and drug-free environment.

The program is designed to help students develop coping skills, make positive lifestyle choices, and avoid substance abuse problems.

The following objectives have been established to help achieve this goal :

- *Provide short term individual and group counseling for students with substance abuse, behavioral and emotional concerns*
- *Provide age-appropriate drug, violence, and behavioral prevention and intervention programs.*
- *Address the needs of the students in crisis.*
- *Provide intervention, recommendations for referral and follow-up support.*
- *Assist students in understanding the negative consequences of poor choices.*
- *Focus on the prevention of Bullying*

ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**Student Assistance Program
Orange Public Schools
451 Lincoln Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050**

**Jacob Martin
Student Assistance Coordinator
(973) 677-4050 Ext. 5621**

Role of the Student Assistance Coordinator

Assisting families and students with alcohol and drug issues by working directly with students and/or connecting students and families to community resources when needed;

Providing support for families, staff and administration for students who may have academic issues relating to social-emotional/mental health issues such as alcohol, tobacco, and substance abuse among others;

Serve as members of the high school student support teams (such as crisis, 504, I&RS, and emergency management teams) and assisting with staff development.

In short, the Student Assistance Coordinator provides a support system for students and families to use when circumstances threaten school performance. Students may see the SAC for assistance with any personal issue. The OPS SAC works to develop a working relationship with students that will strengthen the "safety net" that supports each child. Working together with SACs, nurses, administrators and teachers can make a difference in the lives of our children.



Referral Process

Students with substance concerns may be referred to the School Nurse or an Administrator for assistance by:

- Voluntary Self-Referral
- Staff or faculty Members
- Family or Peers
- Intervention and Referral Service (I&RS) Committee

Other Resources Used to Support our Students:

Renaissance House
50 Norfolk Street
Newark, NJ 07103
(973) 623-3386

Family Connections
395 South Center Street
Orange, NJ 07050
(973) 675-3817

GenPsych
5 Regent St., Suite 518
Livingston, NJ 07039
(855) 436-7792

Day top Village
320 W. Hanover Avenue
Parsippany, NJ 07054
(973) 675-3817

Flexible Resources for our

Students' Health and Well- Being needs



Many of our student stressors is rooted in the normal response to peer, family and school tensions. Occasionally, students act out in a way that can be defiant and even self-destructive due to their impaired ability to cope.

Addressing these issues early can enable students to thrive.

At the high school level, the SAC works closely with students and to helps them make informed decisions regarding a variety of pertinent and timely topics.

Conflict Resolution
Life Skills
College and Career Exploration
Behavior Issues
Bullying
Anger Management
Peer Pressure
District Drug policies

Warning Signs of Substance Abuse

- Impaired Short Term Memory
- Constantly Sleeping in Class
- Irritability, Anger, or Hostility
- Sudden Mood Changes
- Unexplained disappearance of valuables
- Personal time is unaccounted for
- Blood shot eyes
- Irresponsible behavior
- Different Friends