

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #53
Burnham – Detroit – Pittsfield

Student Assistance Team

Schools in MSAD #53 may have one or more Student Assistance Team (SAT's) to address the needs of students in grades PK-8 who are at risk or are experiencing academic, behavioral or emotional problems that may interfere with their education.

The Student Assistance Team is a group of school professionals who receive training from the Maine Department of Education in the use of an approved process to identify, refer, and intervene with students. Teams assist students through individual assessment, plan development, positive intervention, referral and coordination of services.

At risk issues may include: self-destructive behaviors such as self-injury, injury to others, depression, and suicidal tendencies; physical, mental, emotional, and sexual abuse; absenteeism and issues including pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and school failure. The SAT functions as a systematic process, which makes it possible for school personnel to determine which students are having problems and refer them for help.

All referrals to and action by the teams are confidential, in keeping with district policies and both state and federal laws. Outside of SAT members, only those needing the information are to be involved in, or informed about, a SAT referral and the findings and interventions arising from it.

Other than exceptional circumstances, school staff shall go through the SAT to refer students for special education services. Interventions recommended by the SAT shall be tried and evaluated before such referrals are made unless the team decides an immediate referral is justified. A parent may request a referral for special education directly.

Nothing in this policy contradicts applicable state or federal laws or regulations involving parental rights, privacy, special education, 504, etc.

The student assistance teams, in consultation with district administration, will develop procedures for referral and intervention and may from time to time amend those procedures as necessary.

Policy Reference: 5.10 Section 504
 9.03 Child find
 9.07 Standards for Student Behavior
 9.12 Suspension/Expulsion of Students
 9.17 Student Substance Abuse
 9.18 Harassment

9.19 Referrals
9.20 Compulsory Attendance
9.22 Suicide Prevention
9.30 Disability Harassment
11.01 Student Education Records
11.09 Parent Involvement in Special Education

Amended: September 12, 2005