TIPS for TEACHERS . . . When to Refer to SCIP

School Community Intervention & Prevention promotes intervention as a process to assist students to reach their full potential. The SCIP process is an intervention that acts to prevent a behavioral health problem from continuing once it has been detected.

Teachers who notice unsettling behavior changes, have gut feelings that something is wrong, or who are made aware of alcohol/drug problems (without catching them), or other problems such as other dependencies (gambling, food disorders, etc.) and mental health concerns should refer students to SCIP. These referrals are made out of the spirit of concern, not accusations.

1. Problems With Grades

- Continual academic difficulty
- Sudden downturn in otherwise good grades
- Students who report they can't complete work because of problems at home
- Students who are perfectionists, who become unduly stressed because of less than perfect grades

2. Problems With Attendance

- Truancy
- Tardiness
- Inability to make it to early morning or late afternoon classes
- Frequent trips to nurse for physical complaints
- Hangs out in known areas where students use
- Found in inappropriate areas of the building

3. Disruptive Behavior in Class

- Sleeping in class
- Fighting
- Cheating
- Discipline problems
- Dramatic attention getting
- Crying
- Sullenness
- Negativity
- Paranoia

4. Involvement With the Disciplinary System of the School

- Frequent detentions
- Internal or external suspensions
- Mouthing off to leave class (especially first period may be a way to avoid class, nurse a hangover, come down off of a high, etc.)
- Frequent aggressiveness/violence

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5. Legal Problems

- Possession of alcohol/drugs
- DWI
- Vandalism
- Trespassing
- Breaking and entering charges
- Violent behaviors
- Runaway
- Curfew violations
- Restraining orders

6. Problems With Extracurricular Activities

- Sudden lack of interest in extracurricular activities
- Loss of privileges

Pay attention to promising artists, writers, athletes who give up activities altogether. There may be good reasons why they quit (overcommitted, job, etc.). It can mean practice time is cutting into party time. Try to follow up with them to find out what is going on.

7. Problems at Home

- Parental alcoholism/drug addiction
- Chaotic or abusive family life
- Moves out of home to live elsewhere (with a friend or relative)
- Student fired from a job
- Incarcerated parent
- Parents unavailable to supervise
- Recent divorce, death, loss

8. Alcohol or Drug Specific Behavior or Indictors

- Caught with drugs/alcohol
- Suspected under the influence: red eyes, loss of coordination, slurred speech, dreamy blank-like expressions
- Drug paraphernalia
- Munchies, unusual eating patterns
- Inappropriate, uncontrolled giggling
- Tired a lot, sleeps in class
- Overall loss of motivation
- Bragging about parties, being drunk or wasted