STUDENT ASSISTANCE CENTER

at PREVENTION FIRST

Building community capacity to prevent substance abuse

SAC *QUICK*tips:
IMPACT EVALUATION

Impact evaluation is conducted after program services have been in place for a period of time because the intent is to look at what changes have occurred in systems as a result of SAP services in a school or district. These changes often happen over a period of time rather than early in the developmental stages of implementation.

The SAP questions look at what positive and negative changes happened intentionally and unintentionally as a result of what the SAP did or didn't do over a period of time. In impact evaluation, it is as important to look at unexpected results as expected results.

- System areas to examine include:
- Attributes of school climate
- How at-risk students are identified
- Communication between students and staff
- Communication between staff and administration
- Staff members' sense of responsibility for all students
- Staff members' attitudes toward helping students
- Collaborative work between staff members
- Changes in policies involving students getting help
- Changes in policies when violations occur
- Changes in staff-to-parent communication or administration-to-parent communication
- Changes in parent communication to the school
- Collaboration between staff, students, parents, and administration around improved policies and procedures
- How parents were involved in the educational process
- How communication occurred with community services
- How community services to the school changed
- How the SAP and the community's juvenile probation and court services, or child protective services collaborated

Resources on prevention.org – Professional Resources – Student Assistance Center: Navigating the Course: a Student Assistance Program Sustainability Guide; Student Assistance Program Guidebook: A Resource for Schools.