

STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES CORPORATION
Substance Abuse Prevention • Mental Health Treatment • Bullying Prevention
660 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591

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Dr Edwin Quezada
Yonkers Public Schools
One Larkin Center
Yonkers, NY 10701

April 1, 2021

Dear Dr. Quezada:

While this year has been difficult for everyone, the Student Assistance Counselors have successfully adapted their prevention activities to hybrid, remote, and in-person delivery while also (with state approval) broadening their counseling to include current or former students and parents that have been negatively impacted by Covid-19.

This letter contains program costs for the 2021-22 school year, updates, and a summary of program results for the 2019-20 school year and the first four months of this year.

RESULTS AND TRENDS

The eight session Prevention Education Series (PES) was delivered last year both remotely and in-person. The PES includes SEL activities to increase self-awareness, manage emotions, develop empathy, build relationships, problem solve, and develop good decision making skills, while providing education to increase perception of risk of substance use and identifying students at higher risk for substance use. Both middle and high school students participating in the PES reported increased perception of risk for alcohol and marijuana use, prescription drug misuse, and binge drinking. This year the PES is being delivered in person and remotely and varies depending on the day. The teachers that coordinate the Student Assistance Counselor's delivery of the PES have been extremely helpful so we are on track to deliver the same number of sessions as last year.

For students who met with the Student Assistance Counselor for four or more times last year,

- 92.3% of HS students and 100% of MS students either reduced their alcohol or marijuana use or remained a non-user
- 94.1% of HS Students and 95.2% of MS students increased participation in school activities or events or class attendance
- We won't have the final outcomes for students seen for counseling until July but based on the first four months of the school year we are seeing the following interesting trends:
- last year 39% of HS and 40% of MS students seen were self-referred or referred by a friend; for Sept. - Dec. of this year 38% of HS and 40% of MS students were self or friend referred
- all other sources of referrals are also similar to last year
- last year 23% of HS and 6% of MS students reported vaping products containing THC and products containing nicotine; for Sept. - Dec. of this year 16% of HS and 1% of MS students reported vaping these products
- last year 18% of HS and 9% of MS students reported having a parent with an alcohol or substance use disorder, for Sept. - Dec. of this year again 18% of HS but only 7% of MS students reported the same information
- anecdotally, we are hearing from more students about increased parental alcohol and marijuana use, but not necessarily a substance use disorder

COSTS The cost for the 2021-22 school year.

Gorton High School	2.50	\$38,422
Lincoln High School	3.00	\$46,106
Palisade Preparatory School	2.00	\$30,737
Riverside High School	3.00	\$46,106
Roosevelt High School Early College Studies	3.00	\$46,106
Saunders Trades & Technical High School	3.00	\$46,106
Yonkers High School	2.50	\$38,422
Yonkers Montessori Academy	2.00	\$30,737
Total		\$322,741

These costs represent approximately two thirds of the cost of the program. The remaining cost is funded by the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS).

The Governor has proposed the creation of a new state agency that combines OASAS and the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH). It is unclear when this will happen and what the impact will be on existing state funded prevention programs and services. Also, OASAS is exploring the possibility of allowing prevention counseling to be reimbursed by insurance and Medicaid which may reduce school costs.

I need to receive your "intent to participate" form by **April 30th** and a letter of commitment or contract by June 1st. If you are interested in increasing or decreasing the number of program days, please contact me as soon as possible.

UPDATE

Based on the most recent peer reviewed scientific research, the proposal to legalize non-medical marijuana in NYS will impact all New Yorkers but have the most negative consequences for youth. The latest study, just published in the Feb. 15, 2021 Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, concluded that recreational marijuana legalization (RML) "in California was associated with an increase in adolescent marijuana use in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. Demographic subgroup differences in these associations were observed. Evidence-based prevention programs and greater local control on retail marijuana sales may help to reduce marijuana availability and use among adolescents." Car crashes, negative school and career outcomes, mental health issues, physical problems, are just some of the recently documented issues associated with the use of today's marijuana by adolescents.

Schools, community coalitions, PTAs, and many others in Westchester have worked hard to educate parents and students about making healthy choices. As a result, last year's survey of Westchester secondary students documented decreases in the 30 day (regular) use of most drugs including significant decreases in vaping and light to moderate decreases in marijuana use despite increased media coverage of legalization. Attached is the chart comparing surveys from the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school year. If legalization of non-medical marijuana occurs, our work will be more challenging and we will need to anticipate increased marijuana and other drug use.

Please contact me if you need more information about any of the items in this letter and if you have suggestions for what else we can do to prevent and reduce student substance use and improve student well-being

Yours truly,



Ellen Morehouse

Cc: Louis Rodriguez Rod Rodrigues Rosetta Barbieri
Jade Sharp Edward DeChent Steven Mazzola Eileen Rivera
William Shaggura Ian Sherman Don Solimene Robert Vicuna

STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES CORPORATION
INTENT/ REQUEST FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR SERVICES

2021-2022 School Year

Please FAX to (914) 366-8826 or email to diane.murgalo@sascorp.org

By April 30th

For questions call (914) 332-1300

Yonkers Public Schools Schools

I am selecting:

Option 1 – Maintaining the same level of services:

School	Days	Cost
Gorton High School	2.50	\$38,422
Lincoln High School	3.00	\$46,106
Palisade Preparatory School	2.00	\$30,737
Riverside High School	3.00	\$46,106
Roosevelt High School Early College Studies	3.00	\$46,106
Saunders Trades & Technical High School	3.00	\$46,106
Yonkers High School	2.50	\$38,422
Yonkers Montessori Academy	2.00	\$30,737

Option 2 – Increasing Services

- The district would like to increase the level of services from SAS. Please indicate the requested number of days of coverage _____

Option 3 - Decreasing Services

- The district needs to decrease the level of services from SAS.

Note: If services are decreased, the subsidy from the NYS OASAS will be used for other school districts and may not be available to the district in the future.

Signature

Print Name

Title/Position

Date