

The Rhode Island Student Assistance Program



is a statewide school-based alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention/early intervention program operating since 1987. RISAS is available in 25 middle/junior high schools and 26 high schools, representing 20 districts.

The Student Assistance Program is located in schools, where adolescents have easy access to highly trained counselors and where alcohol and other drug use-related risk factors, such as drinking at an early age, poor academic performance, deviant school behavior and poor parent-child relationships are more likely to be detected than at home. We use on-site Master's-level counselors to provide a wide range of prevention and early intervention services. Parents, school administrators, teachers and others in the community find the SAP a highly effective model for addressing alcohol, drug and other problems which negatively impact academic performance and attendance.

The goals of the Student Assistance Program are to: *enhance the resiliency of adolescents whose parents are substance abusers; delay adolescents' initial use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and decrease adolescents' use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.*

A valuable characteristic of the Student Assistance program is its ability to identify and help youth, especially those at high risk, before the onset of alcohol and other drug problems. This early detection and intervention has proven effective in delaying the initiation and use of alcohol and other drugs, and reducing the resultant school/life problems.

The Student Assistance Program is based on the national Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) model programs, Project Success and the Residential Student Assistance Program. For more information go to <http://modelprograms.samhsa.gov> click on "model programs" and go to Project Success and Residential Student Assistance Program.

RISAS

300 Centerville Road, Suite 301 S
Warwick, RI 02886
401-732-8680