

THE PROGRAM

Western Wayne High School's Student Assistance Program is named IMPACT (Intervention Methods Plus a Concerned Team). The program started during the 1990-1991 school year to provide a means of identifying and helping students who have serious problems which interfere with their success at school. IMPACT has targeted the following crisis areas:

- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Teen pregnancy
- Child abuse
- Mental health
- Legal issues

THE TEAM

The trained members of the IMPACT team and their subject areas or positions are:

- Patrick Sheehan, Principal
- Matthew Barrett, Vice Principal
- Joanne Tagle, Counselor
- Adrienne Nipper, Counselor
- Renée Chernin, Counselor
- Matthew Fitzsimmons, Counselor
- Denise Johnson, H.S. Nurse
- Laurie Tylutki, English Teacher
- Maria Masankay, Science Teacher
- Diane Tansits, School Social Worker
- Ted Macdonough, Math Teacher
- Colleen Carmody, Fam. & Cons. Science Teacher
- Ben Gill, Social Studies Teacher
- Brian Landry, Technology Teacher
- Theresa Lubash, Business Teacher
- Maria Liptak, Director of Food Services
- Megan Rush, English Teacher
- Drug & Alcohol Prevention Specialist, Wayne County D&A Commission
- Juvenile Probation Officer, Wayne County Probation
- SAP Liaison, Wayne County Human Services
- School Outreach Worker, Victims Intervention Program

CONFIDENTIALITY

The IMPACT program and team members follow strict rules of confidentiality. The information given to the IMPACT team will not be given to other teachers or administrators. The ONLY exceptions to this are the cases in which it is believed that the student may seriously harm himself or herself or another person.

REFERRAL PROCESS

Parent/Guardian Referral: Parents or guardians may refer their child to the IMPACT team by contacting any team member at 1-800-321-9973.

Teacher & High School Staff Referral: Teachers and high school staff may refer students to the IMPACT team by completing a confidential referral form available in the main office.

Self-Referral: Students may approach an IMPACT team member or obtain and complete a confidential referral form (available in Guidance) to ask for help through the IMPACT program.

Peer Referral: Peers or friends may approach an IMPACT team member or obtain a referral form (available in Guidance) to express concern for the problems a student is having.

Confidential referral forms may be returned to Guidance or given to an IMPACT team member.

IMPACT

REMEMBER

Adolescence is a stage of development which can be extremely baffling to teens, their parents and those who work with them. Changes -- physical, emotional, social, and educational -- affect many adolescents producing feelings of anxiety, embarrassment, confusion and tension. Some young people have a difficult time coping with these feelings. IMPACT has been established to provide the needed support to these students.

HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

Support Groups

Educational Student Support Groups provide information, support and problem-solving skills to students who are experiencing academic or social problems. Western Wayne High School's Student Assistance Program offers support groups in the following areas; GRIEF, DIVORCE, ALCOHOL & DRUG EDUCATION, SELF ESTEEM, TOBACCO CESSATION, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, STUDY SKILLS and ANGER MANAGEMENT. Most support groups run on an eight-week cycle and are offered during the school day. Trained faculty and community agency personnel are available to facilitate the groups.. For detailed information please call the guidance office and speak to a guidance counselor (570-937-3190).

School Based Services

Support services are a result of cooperation and collaboration with community agencies and resources. A number of these services are available to students at the high school.

- **Anti-Bullying-** School based service provides individual counseling and classroom programs.
- **Mental Health-** School based services provide individual therapy and interventions for students with a variety of mental health issues.
- **Probation-** the School Based Probation Officer provides immediate intervention to students under court jurisdiction, by coordinating services with the school, community and family.
- **Drug & Alcohol-** School based services provide pre --assessments, group counseling and classroom presentations
- **Victims Intervention Program-** School based services provide individual and group counseling services to victims of domestic

violence and sexual assault. Classroom programs are also available.

WARNING SIGNS OF ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION AND/OR SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR

Warning signs are an indirect cry for help. By being alert to the warning signs and changes in behavior, parents, teachers and friends can act quickly to avert suicidal action. Any one of the following signs warrants attention:

- Threats to commit suicide.
- A feeling of hopelessness or of being trapped.
- Loss of interest in activities, hobbies, etc.
- Social withdrawal.
- Giving away prized possessions.
- Alcohol and/or drug involvement.
- Themes of despair in written material, art work or music.
- Change in concentration and academic performance.
- Change in normal eating and sleeping patterns.
- Change in personal grooming patterns.
- Recent loss of loved one -- death, parental divorce or break up of a relationship.
- Risk-taking behavior.

Take suicidal threats and other warning signs seriously. If you are concerned about a young person, refer him or her **to IMPACT** or call the **SUICIDE HOTLINE 282-1732**.

BEHAVIOR SIGNS OF AN ADOLESCENT WHO MAY BE ABUSING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

- Bloodshot eyes
- Smell of alcohol or marijuana
- Skipping class and/or school
- Lack of concern for school; declining grades
- Absenteeism
- Emotional highs and lows
- Defiance of rules and regulations
- Money or alcohol missing
- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Selling possessions for money for drugs or alcohol
- Defensiveness and being short-tempered

If a student exhibits a number of these behavior signs, he or she may be abusing drugs and/or alcohol.

Western Wayne High School
1-800-321-WWSD
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