

## STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Evansville School Board recognizes that the use of alcohol and other drugs, and the problems associated with it, are becoming increasingly commonplace in our society. In many instances a person's misuse or abuse of alcohol and other drugs will lead to the illnesses of alcoholism and other chemical dependencies. We believe the school, in conjunction with parents and the community, is in a unique position to be of assistance to help young people who have become involved with alcohol and other drugs. We further believe school is an environment that must be free from drugs and alcohol. It should be a place where students feel both safe and secure and surrounded by people who model mature behavior including respect for institutions, laws, and individual rights.

It is clear that the primary responsibility for helping students who are involved with chemicals\* lies with their parents. However, the Board believes that both the school and community play significant roles in assisting parents with helping and educating your people in the area of drugs and alcohol. We believe it is the role of the school, in conjunction with parents, to help children understand the complex nature of chemical dependency. It is necessary that our students, their parents and their teachers be made aware of the danger inherent in making unwise choices about chemical use. It is also the intent of the school to uphold state and federal laws pertaining to chemical use. It is vital that the district provide the students and their teachers with a comprehensive chemical awareness prevention and support program.

Therefore, the Board of Education supports the following major components in Evansville's Chemical Awareness and Student Assistance Program.

1. Drug abuse prevention education and the promotion of wise choices concerning the individual's health, in the promotion of a strong self-concept.
2. An early intervention in the use/abuse process for the purpose of identification, evaluation, and, when appropriate, referral for treatment.
3. A supportive school environment for students who have been harmfully involved with drugs and/or alcohol, including those whose families have been or are being disrupted by chemical abuse.

The development of a SAP within the school setting requires that various groups assume identified responsibilities. The administration has overall responsibility for the development and implementation of a school chemical dependency program. Included in this responsibility is the dissemination of pertinent information to students, employees, and the community at large. The Board of Education is responsible for approving the chemical dependency program and contributing funds that, along with contributions from local citizens and organizations, will provide financial support for the program. The certified staff is responsible for assisting in program development and for implementing the adopted program. Students are responsible for cooperating in the implementation of the school chemical dependency program.

\*"Chemicals" includes any mood altering substance, including alcohol.