

KISKI AREA SUPPORT PROGRAM EDUCATION REFERRAL

What is KASPER?

KASPER is a formal, consistent, and systematic approach to the early identification of students who are at risk due to drug/alcohol, mental health, or other personal problems. This program provides for intervention with and referral of these students returning to school after treatment. KASPER also works to prevent student problems through awareness campaigns, fostering a positive school climate and a promotion of personal wellness in all students. Thus, KASPER is an intervention, not a treatment program, that integrates a process of information gathering, intervention, and referral through a Core Team. It is designed to help students succeed in school.

What is a Core Team?

A Core Team is a trained team of school personnel that meets regularly to identify, intervene with, and assist students and families in seeking appropriate help through KASPER. The Core Team will also be assisted in its referral efforts by a Core Team Liaison, representing both the mental health and the drug & alcohol treatment systems.

Who is part of the Core Team at Kiski Area?

- Teachers
- Guidance Counselors
- School Principals
- Parole Officers
- Counselors from Allegheny Valley
- School Nurses

What is the KASPER Referral Process?

The Kiski Area Support Program Education Referral is conducted on a voluntary basis utilizing the following process:

Step 1 – Students are referred to the KASPER through the following means:

- a. School Administrator
- b. Teacher
- c. Other School Personnel (e.g. Guidance Counselor, School Nurse, etc.)
- d. Fellow Students
- e. Self-Referral
- f. Family

Step 2 – All referrals to the KASPER are reviewed by the Core Team, and a formal information gathering process begins. Objective and pertinent data is collected from various sources such as:

- a. Attendance Office (absences/tardiness)
- b. Student Records (academic performance)
- c. Teachers (classroom behavior)
- d. Guidance Counselors (special areas of concern)
- e. School Nurse (health information)
- f. Other School Personnel
- g. Parent Interviews

Step 3 – A determination is made by the Core Team as to the seriousness of the problem. Students considered to have significant problems are scheduled for an in-school assessment with the Core Team Liaison.

Step 4 – The collected data and the assessment results are reviewed by the Core Team, in consultation with the Core Team Liaison, and recommendations are formulated. The findings, recommendations, which explicitly indicate the student's need for personal change and/or outside help, are presented by the Core Team to the student/parents in accordance with Kiski Area's KASPER procedures.

Step 5 – The Core Team then assists the student and the parents in pursuing a course of action designed to resolve the identified problems. This action plan shall consist of:

- a. Support Strategies such as in-school individual or group counseling, changes in the course of study, vocational training, medical examination, etc. as available in the district.
and/or
- b. Referral by the Core Team for evaluation by the mental health system, drug and alcohol system, or both, to determine the most appropriate level of care needed.
and/or
- c. Other professional services outside the school setting.

Step 6 – The Core Team monitors the progress of the student to determine the extent to which the identified problems are being resolved through the action plan. The team will continue to collect data to ascertain whether improvement in student behavior is being observed and, if necessary, will schedule another meeting with the student/parents to make changes in the action plan.