

REACHING OUT

Program Description

The Reaching Out Program provides social/emotional and academic support to students during and following a psychiatric hospitalization, as well as to other students struggling with significant social/emotional challenges. Reaching Out staff members work collaboratively with students and parents/guardians to identify the appropriate Reaching Out services for each student.

Student Support

Individual Counseling

Counseling is provided by a social worker on a weekly or as-needed basis to support students as they work on social/emotional and academic goals.

Student Support Group

The student group meets on a weekly basis and is facilitated by Reaching Out staff members. The group provides a forum for students to support one another as they address social/emotional and school-related issues.

Reaching Out Room/Crisis Intervention Support

The Reaching Out Room is located in the Counseling Department amidst the Reaching Out staff offices. Reaching Out has an open-door policy. Students can sign in and access crisis intervention support as needed. The Reaching Out Room is also used by students as a study area, lunchroom, and “home base” when students are free throughout the day.

Lunchtime Drop-In

Students may drop into the Reaching Out Room during their lunch periods for support or conversation with peers and/or Reaching Out staff.

Collaboration with Outpatient Service Providers

With parent/guardian permission, Reaching Out staff will collaborate with outpatient service providers in an effort to better coordinate services and support student needs.

Support for Treatment-Related Absences

When students experience a psychiatric hospitalization, The Reaching Out Program Coordinator will serve as a liaison between the school and the hospital program. The coordination of academic work as well as the school re-entry process will be handled by the Reaching Out Program Coordinator.

Family Support

Collaboration with Parents/Guardians

Ongoing collaboration with parents/guardians is essential to support student progress. This may be accomplished through periodic phone contact and/or individual meetings with parents/guardians.

Academic Support

Collaboration and Advocacy with Teachers

Reaching Out staff members work closely with teachers to promote an understanding and awareness of individual student needs while learning about teacher expectations and course guidelines. As students gain more confidence and experience collaborating with teachers, their independent self-advocacy skills improve.

The Learning Assistance Program

Students receiving counseling support through Reaching Out may access academic support through the Learning Assistance Program (LAP). LAP is a general education academic support program that helps students to develop strategies for organization, studying, test-taking, self-advocacy, and general learning skills. Students set goals upon entering LAP and they receive support and guidance as they work to become more successful and independent learners.

The Referral Process

Parent/Guardian, Student and Staff Referrals

Referrals to the program can be made by the student's counselor at the request of parents/guardians, students, or staff members. These referrals will be discussed at the weekly Red and Gray Counselor Teams to determine if Reaching Out appears to be the most appropriate resource for the student. Membership on these teams includes counselors, social workers, psychologists, Special Education staff, deans, school nurses and teachers.

Treatment Related Referrals

When students experience a psychiatric hospitalization, they are referred directly to Reaching Out. The Reaching Out Program Coordinator acts as a liaison between the school and the hospital program, coordinating the academic work and the school re-entry process.

Reaching Out Staff Members

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