

## Sage In-District Program Services

1. Individual counseling
2. Family counseling
3. Group counseling
4. Classroom and lunchroom observations
5. Home visits
6. Coordination of care with district personnel as well as outside providers
7. Consultation support for guidance counselors and CST case managers who provide short-term student counseling
8. Psycho-education and therapeutic interventions for faculty and administration
9. Participation in IEP and staff meetings
10. In-service presentations

## FAQs About The Sage Program

- 1) Why was the Sage Program created?
  - It was designed to fill the gap in service between the existing in-school support and an out-of-district placement. It generally serves Child Study Team (CST) classified students at Weehawken High School who are presenting with emotional difficulties that are affecting their academic and social functioning.
  
- 2) Where is the Sage Program located in Weehawken High School?
  - We are located in the media center office.
  
- 3) How many days a week are you here?
  - Ms. Reyes is here full-time during the school year from September through June, Monday through Friday, as well as an evening for family counseling.
  
- 4) How is it determined who will be in the Sage Program?
  - Students identified for the Sage Program have been determined appropriate by the Special Services CST or by the Director of Special Services upon consultation with the I&RS Committee.
  - Once a student is identified to be considered for the program, a member of the CST or guidance counselor will contact the parent(s) of the identified student. The student will then participate in an intake assessment at Weehawken High School conducted by the Sage Program counselor to determine if the student is appropriate to be formally accepted into the program.

**> Please note: At this point, we are working primarily with students classified by the CST as a program priority.**

- 5) What type of student would be appropriate for referral into the Sage Program?
- Sage works with a variety of CST classified students who present with emotional difficulties that are affecting their academic and social functioning. Common issues of students in the Sage Program often include, but are not limited to: Anxiety, Depression, Bipolar, ADHD, Impulse Control, Social Anxiety, Asperger's Syndrome as well as other typical adolescent issues.
  - In addition, a small number of students may be considered as exhibiting situational school adjustment difficulties related to a psychological and/or psychiatric emergency. These students may be approved for Sage services by the Director of Special Services after or as a part of an I&RS intervention.
- 6) How long will the identified students be involved in the Sage Program?
- This will be determined on a case by case basis. Once a student has shown long-term consistent emotional growth and academic improvement while in the program, a determination about the student's progress will be made and the student will then be evaluated for possible discharge from the program.
- 7) How many students will be involved in the Sage Program?
- At this point, we have not established a capacity or a specific number of students that will be involved in the program. Our goal is to serve the maximum number of students possible without compromising the comprehensive quality of counseling services being provided.
- 8) Is participation in the Sage Program voluntary?
- Yes. Students and parents do have to consent to be a part of the program, however, it is also understood that some students are more willing participants than others. While Sage does not require any particular student to be involved in the program, a student's standing at Weehawken may be compromised if he/she chooses not to participate in the program.
- > **Please note: The program is not designed to be used for punitive or disciplinary reasons.**
- 9) What type of services does the Sage Program provide?
- Sage Program services can be provided directly to students on an individual, group, and family basis through counseling as well as through observations and coordination of resources.
  - Sage Program services can also be provided to staff members, including school guidance counselors for consultative support. Some students who exhibit psychological and/or psychiatric emergencies may receive direct counseling services from their school guidance counselor and in such cases can also be provided ongoing consultation support from the Sage counselor.

- 10) How often will Sage Program counselors be meeting with the students?
- Generally, students are expected to meet for individual counseling (25-30 minutes per session), group counseling as needed (45 minutes per session) and family counseling as needed (45 minutes per session). Based on our ongoing assessment of the students in the program, we will continually make individualized determinations about which services will be most beneficial to a student's success.
- 11) How will it be decided when you will be meeting with students in the Sage Program?
- We will coordinate a schedule with the student, parent(s) and CST/Guidance Counselor to arrange the best time for the student to attend counseling sessions.
- 12) How will the teachers know if students from the Sage Program will be taken from their class?
- All teachers whose students' class attendance will be minimally affected by their involvement in the program will be notified prior to their students' initial participation in the program. If a teacher has concerns (e.g. poor grades, taking a test, incomplete homework) about a student missing their class to participate in the program, we can be very flexible with scheduling and will gladly discuss these concerns as we understand the importance of a student's education.

If you have any questions, please contact Yerelyn Reyes at (201) 422-6134, ext. 2089 or [yreyes@weehawken.k12.nj.us](mailto:yreyes@weehawken.k12.nj.us).

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Yerelyn Reyes, LCSW  
Sage Program Counselor