

Frequently Asked Questions About Student Support

A Guide for Parents and Students

**School District of Poynette
Department of Student Services**

Frequently Asked Question Categories “At a Glance”

Academics/ Curriculum
Alcohol/ Other Drugs (AODA)
Attendance
Busing
School Safety and Crisis Planning
Discipline
Discrimination
Extra Curricular Activities
Education Excellence Resource Center
Financial/ School Related
Food Service
Gifted and Talented
Harassment
Health/ Medications
Mental Health (Emotional/ Psychological)
Reading (Special Programs)
Students with Special Needs
Student Services
Volunteerism/ Community Service
Technology

*“You know, you have to start somewhere, and
asking a question is as good a place to begin as any.”
-R. Stine*

Every question has an answer...somewhere. You need to be willing to ask the questions, and you need a place to begin. And, even when you are not quite sure what to ask, you still need a place to begin.

This resource lists some of those questions you might want to ask, and those places and people where you can begin.

We hope that this will be helpful. Let us know what you think. What other kind of information should we include? All suggestions for change and improvement are most welcome.

ACADEMICS/CURRICULUM

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
What is (a particular high school class) all about?	Teacher/ School Counselor
Did the teacher grade “on the curve” for this project? Why did my son only get a B?	Teacher
What should my child know by the end of the year?	Teacher
Are students required to take four years of English?	School Counselor
What choices does my daughter have following graduation? Two vs. four year colleges, etc.?	School Counselor
What are the State Academic Standards? How is the district utilizing them?	Principal/Teacher
My son is “lost” (academically). Where can I get help?	Teacher/ School Counselor
My son was sick all week. What does he need to do to make up his classes?	Teacher(s)/ Assistant Principal
Where is academic policy (requirements, electives, alternative schooling, etc.) determined? What flexibility do students/families have?	School Counselor Principal

ALCOHOL/OTHER DRUGS

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
Who can I see about my daughter’s drug problems?	School Counselor/ School Psychologist
My daughter says her good friend has a drug/alcohol problem. Who should she talk to?	School Counselor/School Psychologist
What kind of community services are available in the area of alcohol and other drug abuse?	School Counselor/ School Psychologist

ATTENDANCE

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
My son has a doctor’s appointment in two weeks. Who should I notify?	School Office
I have a question about the village truancy ordinance. Who can I ask??	Assistant Principal

BUSING

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
Does the bus driver need to know about my son’s medical concerns? Who can I ask?	District Nurse/ Assist. Principal/ Principal
A boy hit my son on the bus. Who do I report the incident to?	Assistant Principal
The bus driver was inappropriate to me (parent). Who can I report this to?	Transportation Supervisor/ Principal
The bus driver comes at a different time every day. Who can I report this to?	Transportation Supervisor/ Principal

SCHOOL SAFETY AND CRISIS PLANNING

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
We want to join the safety committee. How can we do that?	Director of Student Services
I think an incident should have been handled differently. Who can I discuss it with?	Assistant Principal/ Principal
Do we have a crisis plan at the school?	Director of Student Services

DISCIPLINE

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
Why did my son get a detention?	Teacher/ Assistant Principal
My daughter received a detention unfairly. I talked with the teacher, but am still concerned. Who can I talk to?	Assistant Principal
I have an idea that might work better as a discipline tool. Who should I tell?	Assistant Principal/ Principal
I believe the teacher is playing favorites and is unfair with my child. Who can I discuss it with?	Teacher/ Assistant Principal/ Principal
I want to review my child's records. Who would I talk to?	Assistant Principal/ Principal
A teacher was discussing my child at the restaurant....that is supposed to be confidential. Who can I tell?	Principal

DISCRIMINATION

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
My daughter is being discriminated against. Who can I talk to?	School Counselor/ Assistant Principal
My son thinks his friend is being discriminated against. Who should I tell?	School Counselor/ Assistant Principal
I want to file a formal complaint. How should I do that?	Assistant Principal/ Principal
I want more information on the discrimination policy. Who can I talk to?	Assistant Principal/ Principal/ Director of Student Services
Does that policy apply to everyone? Who can I discuss it with?	Principal/ Director of Student Services

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
Does the school have a list of extra-curricular activities that my son can join?	School Counselor/School Secretary/ Assistant Principal
My daughter would like to initiate a new club. Who can I talk with about this?	Principal

EDUCATION EXCELLENCE RESOURCE CENTER

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
What kind of programs and activities are available?	Education Excellence Coordinator/Principal
What kind of specific materials does the center have?	Education Excellence Coordinator/Principal
When can I go to the EE Resource Center?	Education Excellence Coordinator/Principal
What parenting resources are available there?	Education Excellence Coordinator/Principal

FINANCIAL/SCHOOL RELATED

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
I cannot afford all the student fees assessed. Who can I talk with?	Principal
I cannot afford the meal costs. Who can I talk to?	Principal/ Business Manager

FOOD SERVICE

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
My child has a restricted diet. Who do I notify?	District Nurse
My child has medical restrictions. Who do I discuss these with?	District Nurse
I have some menu suggestions that I feel would be great. Who should I tell?	Food Service Supervisor
I would like to help in the kitchen as a volunteer. Who would I go to?	Food Service Supervisor/ Assistant Principal
There is not enough supervision in the cafeteria. Who should be informed?	Assistant Principal/ Principal

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
My child might be gifted and talented. Who can I talk to?	Education Excellence Coordinator
I want some voice in the identification of gifted and talented children. Who do I tell?	Education Excellence Coordinator
If my child is in the gifted and talented program, will there be an impact on his grades?	Education Excellence Coordinator
What type of programs do you offer in the Education Excellence program?	Education Excellence Coordinator

HARASSMENT

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
My daughter is being harassed by other students. Who can I see?	School Counselor/ Assistant Principal
My son feels his friend is being harassed. Who can I speak to?	School Counselor/ Assistant Principal
I feel the teacher is ridiculing my son in class and I want it to stop. Who should I speak to?	Teacher/ Assistant Principal/ Principal
I want to file a formal harassment complaint. How can I do that?	Assistant Principal Principal
My child is in special education and is being harassed/teased by other students. Who will help?	Teacher/ Assistant Principal
I want more information on the harassment policy. Who can I talk to?	School Counselor Director of Student Services
Does this policy apply to everyone? (Students/Faculty/Staff)	Assistant Principal/Principal

HEALTH/MEDICATIONS

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
My child needs medication daily. Who should I talk to about this?	District Nurse
My child needs antibiotics for the rest of this week. Who needs to know?	District Nurse
Can my senior take his own medication?	District Nurse/ Principal
My child needs a health plan for the school day, because of specific health issues. Who should I talk to ?	District Nurse

MENTAL HEALTH (EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL)

Sample Questions	Who do I turn to?
My daughter is depressed and worries about herself? Who can I talk to?	School Counselor/School Psychologist
My daughter's friend is very agitated and I think she may be pregnant. Who can I speak to? Will it be confidential?	District Nurse/ School Counselor
My son's friend seems depressed? Should I tell someone?	School Counselor/School Psychologist
How can I know whether or not my child or a friend of my child is suicidal?	School Counselor/School Psychologist
Where can I learn about mental health services at school or in the community?	School Psychologist/ School Counselor
My son's friend seems suddenly withdrawn and upset. He may be on drugs or may be abused in his home. Who can I turn to?	School Psychologist/ School Counselor

READING (SPECIAL PROGRAMS)

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
Do you have any special reading programs?	Teacher/ Principal Director of Student Services
I think my son has problems with reading comprehension. Who can I see?	Teacher/Principal
Do you have any programs to encourage reading?	Principal
Can I have my son or daughter tested in reading? Who do I turn to?	Principal/ School Psychologist

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
What is a handicapping condition? What are the different handicapping conditions? I'm concerned about my child.	Director of Student Services/ School Psychologist
How does a student qualify for special education?	Director of Student Services/ School Psychologist
What services are offered for students needing special education?	Director of Student Services/ School Psychologist
What special education staff do you have?	Director of Student Services/ School Psychologist
I am not happy with the decision made at the last Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting and want to appeal. Who do I talk to?	Director of Student Services

STUDENT SERVICES

Sample Questions	Who do I turn to?
I need to share my child's psychological (or medical) report with his teachers. Who should I talk to?	School Psychologist
My child needs some extended counseling. Does the school do that? Are there costs?	School Psychologist/ School Counselor
I have some questions about my child. Who can I see?	School Counselor
Our family is in crisis. Who can I contact for information, support, and available help.	School Counselor
What guidance programming is available?	School Counselor Director of Student Services

VOLUNTEERISM/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
I am interested in doing volunteer service in the school. Who should I contact?	Assistant Principal/ Principal/ Director of Student Services
What is service learning? Does Poynette have a service learning program?	School Counselor/ Assistant Principal
Do I need to go through a background check to be a volunteer in the school?	Director of Student Services
If I wanted my son to get class or elective credit for some volunteer work he is doing, who should I talk to?	Principal

TECHNOLOGY

Sample Questions	Who can I turn to?
What kind of network system does our school district have	Network Administrator
How are we integrating technology into our curricula?	Technology Integration Specialist

RESOURCE STAFF

Barbara Wolfe, Superintendent	635-4347 x200
Alan Chittick, Director of Student Services	635-4347 x201
Nancy Mair, Business Manager	635-4347 x203
Craig McCallum, Principal – High School, District Transportation Supervisor	635-4347 x400
Brian Sutton, Principal – Elementary buildings and Middle School	635-4347 x100
Gabrielle Morton, School Counselor, Poynette Elementary and Middle Schools	635-4347 x334
Vicki Sukowski, School Counselor, Poynette High School, Arlington and Dekorra	635-4347x314
Todd Anderson, School Counselor, High School	635-4347 x404
Amy Cole, School Psychologist	635-4347 x301
Judy Smith, District Nurse	635-4347 x311
Jeanne Mutchler, Education Excellence Coordinator	635-4347 x166
Beth Stephens, Food Services	635-4347 x312

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

(see Family Resource Directory)