



STUDENT & FAMILY ADVISORY

*Providing All Students with the Support
They Need to Succeed*

SUMMARY

Student & Family Advisory (SFA) is a research-based school-wide practice that provides all students in middle and high school with the support they need to feel attached to school, to succeed in school, and to graduate ready for the rigors of college and high quality careers. Through SFA, students and their parents/caregivers come to know and be known well by at least one adult in the school who provides *continuity of care* by staying connected with them the entire time they are enrolled in the school.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Student & Family Advisory is implemented as a building-wide initiative that includes all students in the school and their parents/caregivers; teachers, administrators, and other appropriate staff; and support-service providers within and outside the school who are available for referrals and follow-up.

- SFA implementation begins with the assembly of a Stakeholder Team of administrators, faculty, parents, and community members who receive the training, tools, and resources necessary to implement and sustain SFA effectively year after year.
- Schools form advisory teams that each include 12-14 students and one or two staff advisors. Teams remain intact until students graduate from the school; in other words, advisors remain with their same students through middle school or through all four years of high school, ensuring continuity of care for students and their families.
- Each year begins with an annual Teambuilding Day for all advisory teams, which ensures that a positive tone is set for the year's activities.
- Advisors facilitate regularly scheduled meetings of their teams (*at least* once per week for 40 minutes).
- A detailed SFA curriculum supports a dual focus on *relationships* (students' social-emotional abilities) and *rigor* (students' ability to perceive and invest in themselves as students and develop the habits of academic success).
- Advisors communicate monthly with the parents/caregivers of their students.
- All adults in a school (working in groups of 15) participate in seven days of intensive training sessions, during which they learn strategies and content for facilitating their advisory teams, approaches for providing ongoing support to students and their families, and processes for connecting students and their families to key resources. A cohort model—bringing on one grade level at a time—is recommended, but is part of the Stakeholder Team's work of thinking through questions of implementation. The training schedule is specifically tailored to each school's calendar.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Student & Family Advisory, please contact Dr. Margo Ross, Senior Director of Development, at 609.252.9300 x 113, or mross@supportiveschools.org. You can also visit our website at www.supportiveschools.org.