CREATING THE PLAN FOR STUDENTS OF CONCERN

The goal of the Student Support Team is to empower young people to make positive life choices, to assist in identifying students at risk for substance use and to create positive educational and supportive programing to optimize healthy student outcomes.

The process begins once a student of concern is identified within the school. There are three pathways of the support process: **Medical Safety Pathway, Discipline Pathway** and **General Student of Concern Pathway.** Appropriate school staff resources such as principal, nurse, resource officer may need to be initially activated to support student safety as they enter each pathway.

- **Pathway 1: Medical Safety Pathway** involves students who are in *medical distress* while at school because of potential misuse or abuse of a substance or prescription medicine.

- **Pathway 2: Discipline Pathway** is initiated for students who are identified as actively misusing substances at school and may have entered the discipline ladder as a result of their use during school but are not in medical distress. Student and families who engage in educational programing are supported through reduced student consequences.

- **Pathway 3: General Student of Concern Pathway** is for students who show patterns or behaviors of distress potentially pointing to substance misuse or related issues.

Under each pathway, the student of concern may require substance use screening, educational programing or additional support resources. How a substance screen is initiated depends on the pathway. For example:

- A student in Pathway 1 who is in medical distress and transported by squad to a hospital would be assessed/screened in the Emergency Department.

- A student in Pathway 2 may enter the screening process through parent referral after a school disciplinary process or after family education programing that's part of the school discipline process.

- A student of concern in Pathway 3 who demonstrates at-risk behaviors (in or out of school) may enter the screening and/or education process by a person of concern, such as a parent, student, teacher, police or coach.

Once student needs are established, a student plan of action is created and shared with the family and the appropriate staff members. Our goal is for students to be able to stay on a course of making healthy choices without substances and to thrive and succeed at school and in life. If additional support is needed, each school community will define future steps of support.

The basic framework of the Student of Concern Process can be seen below:

Nationwide Children's
Dublin ACT Coalition
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