
Problem-Solving Teams: A Guide for Parents

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) has a long history of commitment to prevention and early intervention services. Effective prevention and early intervention practices have resulted in positive outcomes for students, families, teachers, and the community. Effective and energetic problem-solving teams reflect this commitment to prevention and early intervention. The HCPSS has been widely recognized for its innovative and progressive problem-solving team practices.

All Howard County schools have problem-solving teams in place in an effort to enhance the academic and behavioral outcomes for students and teachers. Depending on the school your child attends, the problem-solving team may be referred to as Instructional Intervention Team (IIT), Kid Talk Team, or Student Support Team (SST).

Who might serve on the problem-solving team?

- Administrator(s)
- School Psychologists
- School Counselor(s)
- Classroom Teachers
- Special Education Teacher
- Pupil Personnel Worker
- Cluster Nurse and/or Health Assistant
- Other specialists, as needed

Why would my child be referred to a problem-solving team?

Any school staff member or parent can make a referral to a problem-solving team. Students are typically referred for factors that may be impeding their academic performance. Concerns might include: below grade-level performance, behavior difficulties in the classroom, attendance concerns, social/emotional concerns, and/or health-related problems.

What are the steps of the problem-solving process?

Problem-solving teams all use the same sequence of steps in order to develop an appropriate intervention to meet the students' needs. The general problem-solving process is as follows:

- *Define the Problem*—The reason for the referral is discussed and the problem is defined in observable and measurable terms.
- *Collect Data*—Team members will collect information from classroom teachers and parents, such as work samples, to help determine the student's current level of performance.
- *Develop Goals*—Depending on the student's current level of performance, reasonable goals are developed taking into account classroom and countywide expectations.
- *Develop an Intervention*—An appropriate intervention is developed that will help the student reach set goals. Interventions incorporate evidence-based strategies to modify the instructional environment.
- *Monitor Student Progress*—The efficacy of the intervention is monitored regularly and modified as necessary.

For more information about your school's problem-solving team, please contact the school psychologist or visit the following website: <http://www.howard.k12.md.us/psych/>