

Dear Educator,

More than ever before, children are struggling with issues like bullying, depression and even suicide. With the advent of social media, these challenges have become even more urgent, as for many children, it seems there is no escape from the unrelenting pressure to “fit in” or “be cool.” These and other new and emerging difficulties, such as parental job loss or even the loss of a home, make academic success unattainable for many. What’s more, teachers and other educators are often at a loss as to how to help students during these difficult times, especially when they themselves are stretched thin. Decreased funding in the face of increasing state and federal mandates means doing more with less, and sometimes with nothing at all.

Fortunately, there are answers to these seemingly unanswerable questions. The Masonic Model Student Assistance Program, commonly referred to as MMSAP, is an intensive 2-day seminar that teaches educators how to recognize and intervene with students at risk for harm. Though MMSAP seeks to address many at-risk youth behaviors, it stays specific to the educational concerns of behavior, attendance, health and academics. MMSAP works with Response to Intervention models by teaching early intervention and life skills approaches that have rapid response, high efficiency, problem-solving components and are based on social-emotional learning philosophies focused on asset building to promote personal success. As all initial modification strategies are classroom-based, they benefit individual students and the entire classroom community in all grades, K-12.

“Wow! This was extremely valuable training! Without the help of the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation we could not have paid for the training nor could we have committed to so many of our team members participation. Thank you!”

– April 2011 MMSAP seminar attendee

Student assistance program training can cost school districts thousands of dollars per team or school. But, because they believe so strongly in the efficacy of this program, Masons, through the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation, have chosen to completely underwrite the costs of MMSAP training. In addition, all meals are provided for participants, and lodging may be provided for school teams traveling long distances. Schools are responsible only for substitute teachers to provide coverage for those educators attending the MMSAP seminar.

Included with this letter is a brochure highlighting aspects of the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program to guide you in deciding which members of your school community should attend an upcoming MMSAP training seminar **in Michigan.**

Should you have any questions, or if you are ready to register a team from your school community, please contact me by phone at 800-994-7400, or by email at w.wheeler@mmcfonline.org.

Sincerely,



Walt Wheeler

Executive Director

Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation



www.MMCFOnline.org
www.youtube.com/watch?v=rv8HgNN9AWQ