

School Community Intervention & Prevention

"Family, School & Community Supporting Student Behavioral & Emotional Health"

SCIP is a program designed to bring together families, school and the community to support student behavioral and emotional health.

Our Mission is to provide an effective prevention and early intervention process for youth with behavioral health concerns so they may achieve healthy, productive lives.

SCIP works with schools throughout Nebraska by providing tools and resources to address behavioral health issues that impact children, adolescents and their families. The responsibility and challenge of working with youth must be shared by parents, schools, and communities. Behavioral and mental health issues, as well as alcohol and drug use, impact the school environment and put a student's ability to be successful both within and outside of school at risk.

We educate teachers and other school personnel to work on behalf of students and their families so that they will more successfully reach their potential. For more information about **School Community Intervention & Prevention** and its services, click on the options to your left.

How does SCIP support your student?

Identify: Peers, parents or school staff may observe a student exhibiting concerning behaviors and report their concerns to the **SCIP** Team.

Involve: The **SCIP** Team may involve the parents and students to express concerns about behaviors, to seek solutions, and to explore options which will increase the student's opportunity to be successful.

Assist: When appropriate, the **SCIP** Team may offer a school counselor, a faculty member or a school program that can provide assistance. **SCIP** also collaborates with community behavioral health agencies that can provide a screening for the student at no cost.

Support: The **SCIP** Team continues to support students in the school environment. The goal is to aid the student's improvement.

The SCIP process is always confidential!

How are students referred to SCIP?

Students are often identified by school staff, but may also be referred by a family member, peers, a concerned community member, or by self-referral.

Reasons for a referral may be due to sudden changes in a student's behavior, existing behaviors that may be escalating, or the display of unusual behaviors. These behaviors could be indicators of more serious underlying issues such as:

- Depression
- Grief
- Trauma
- Self-Injury
- Bullying
- Alcohol and/or Drug Use
- Violence
- Abuse
- Eating Disorders
- Gambling
- Gang Activity
- Other Mental/Behavioral Health Disorders

Once a referral has been made, teachers are asked to **confidentially** respond to the **SCIP** Team regarding behaviors they have observed in that student within their classroom. The team reviews the information and discusses what actions can be taken to assist the student.

SCIP Teams have been trained **not** to label or diagnose, but to identify signs that may indicate a more serious problem. Sharing the concerns with parents and students gives them the opportunity to obtain services from the school or from a professional at a community behavioral health agency who can then determine if further services are warranted.

Following a **SCIP** screening, with a *Release of Information* form signed, the agency can provide the **SCIP** Team with recommendations, which they can use to assist students within the school environment. Intervening early can result in positive changes, thereby reducing the potential for problems to develop into something more serious.

SCIP is FREE to families. The initial agency screening for the student provided through **SCIP** is always FREE to families.

As a result of **SCIP** in the schools, students and their families experience an attitude of caring. **SCIP** lets you know that schools and communities respond to the needs of youth and that they are supported in staying in school and being successful.

Where can I receive more information?

Contact a **SCIP** team member at your school or:

School Community Intervention & Prevention (SCIP)
Lincoln Medical Education Partnership
4600 Valley Road
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 483-4581

SCIP CALLED! What do I do now?

You may find yourself in a state of confusion when someone from your child's school calls and says something about being from the SCIP Team and wanting to talk to you about some concerns the school has regarding your child. You may wonder, "What is this about? What should I do now?" Here is some information about SCIP that is meant to help educate parents and guardians in case you receive such a call or you wish to speak to someone about your child's behavior.

The School Community Intervention Program has been in existence for over 25 years. It works in the schools, but is a program of the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership. You can visit our website at www.lmep.com, click on SCIP and find out more information.

LMEP-SCIP trains teams of teachers and school personnel to be able to identify students who aren't being successful in school and intervene to assist them. The student's difficulties may be related to substance abuse or mental health concerns.

Just the facts:

- SCIP is a student assistance program created to identify, intervene, refer and support students. It allows the school to share concerns regarding a student's behavior and offer resources to the family.
- SCIP works in cooperative agreement with community agencies that will provide screenings/evaluations at no charge for children and youth referred to them through the SCIP Program.
- SCIP is not a disciplinary program, although a student may experience a disciplinary action at school due to a school policy violation. What do I do?
- If you receive a call from someone involved with SCIP at your child's school, listen carefully to what the person has to say.
- Come to the school to meet with the person, if asked to do so. A face-to-face meeting, even a very brief one, can be very beneficial for your family.
- Carefully consider the options and resources offered when you meet with the SCIP Team Member.
- Stay in touch with the SCIP Team at your school.

What not to do!

- Don't panic! Kids sometimes make negative choices affecting their behaviors, which are not a reflection on the parents.
- Don't ignore these concerns; this is an opportunity to assist your child.
- Don't feel you have to do this alone; many times parents wish to do that, but SCIP can be a great source of support.
- Don't let your child talk you out of what you've decided to do. If there isn't a problem, the SCIP screening or evaluation will confirm that for both of you!

What can SCIP do for me?

- SCIP can share with you the concerns the school and your child's teachers have for him/her. This may be new information to you!
- The SCIP Team can offer resources at school to help your child.
- The SCIP Team can offer you resources outside of school to help you assess what is happening with your child and make recommendations as to what your next step might be.
- SCIP can be a valuable resource for your family and SCIP can connect you to even more resources.
- The SCIP Team can offer you continuing support.

We know that early intervention can help prevent issues from becoming more serious and behaviors from getting more severe. Take advantage of these opportunities to help your child be more successful in school and in life!

SCIP is funded in part by: Lincoln Public Schools • Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health Services • Region V Systems • United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County

*Information taken from the SCIP website: <http://www.lmep.com/SCIP.aspx>