



RENSELAER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Steven F. McLaughlin
County Executive

Katherine G. Alonge-Coons LCSWR
Commissioner

April 20, 2020

Dr. James Franchini
Averill Park School District
146 Gettle Road
Averill Park, NY 12018

Dear Dr. Franchini,

I hope this letter finds you and your staff well during this unprecedented school year. Please be assured that the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Prevention Specialists dedicated to your schools through contract with Rensselaer County Department of Mental Health continue to provide services to students and families in your district throughout the COVID-19 state of emergency.

In anticipation of your budget planning for the **2020-2021** school year, we at Rensselaer County Dept. of Mental Health have minimized increased costs and calculated your district's contribution as **\$41,747.00** for one full-time employee located in Algonquin Middle School and one at the High School for a total of **\$83,494.00**. This represents only a 2% increase from the current year as we continue to strive to keep costs down while providing evidence-based curricula that have proven favorable outcomes. For your reference, attached please find information highlighting how our services support the district's NYS Education Department requirements.

I look forward to our continued collaboration. Please contact Deputy Commissioner Kirstein Donvito at 518-270-2807 if you have any questions regarding the services we provide in your schools. **Email Kirstein at kdonvito@rensco.com your intent to renew and a contract will be forwarded for your review and processing through the county's electronic contract management system.**

Thank you for your consideration.

May you, your faculty, staff and students, be healthy, well and hopeful in this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine G. Alonge-Coons LCSWR".


Katherine G. Alonge Coons, LCSWR
Commissioner

cc: messiar@apcsd.org
quilesh@apcsd.org

Rensselaer County Office Building
1600 7th Avenue, 3rd floor
Troy, New York 12180

Rensselaer County Department of Mental Health
Student Assistance Programming

The Student Assistance Program utilizes SAMSHA and OASAS Evidence Based Curricula pursuant to **Education Law §804** and supports your efforts in the following ways:



Classroom help in meeting mental health and social emotional learning standards

Provision of other district wide activities such as student assemblies

Parent and staff trainings

TIER I REQUIREMENTS



Student consultation/collaboration

Crisis intervention

Referrals to resources

TIER II REQUIREMENTS



Supportive counseling and family counseling services

Parent education and support groups to encourage caregivers to be involved in their child's education

TIER III REQUIREMENTS

Rensselaer County Department of Mental Health
Prevention Programming

The Substance Abuse Prevention Specialists assigned to your schools are also available to assist you in meeting the **Education Law §3038** requirement that a designee be identified as the point person for information related to substance use prevention, treatment and recovery.

Our data driven evidence based programs have had proven favorable outcomes including:

- ✓ Significantly decreased aggressive or disruptive behaviors;
- ✓ Improved academic engagement and increased competency, as reported by teachers;
- ✓ Improved tolerance to frustration and increased willingness to use effective conflict-resolution strategies learned, and;
- ✓ Decreased use of alcohol and other substances.

