

VOLUNTEER TRAINED GROUP FACILITATORS

Student Assistance Services (SAS) is an extensive program of services provided by the Counseling Department of the San Dieguito Union High School District. This program aims to help all students as they make academic, social and emotional transitions through adolescence.

An important component of SAS is the support group. Support groups give students an opportunity to share concerns about their school, home and personal life. For many students it is their only chance to discuss issues without fear of criticism. Support group is not therapy, but rather a safe place where emotional support is offered.

All support groups are co-facilitated. Having two facilitators lends itself to a more balanced and richer experience for the students. When one facilitator is addressing an issue, the other facilitator may survey group members or relate different observations and insights.

The San Dieguito Union High School District Student Assistance Services Procedure and Observations Manual (March 1997) states, ". . . groups will be facilitated by trained District personnel or co-facilitated by trained community volunteers subject to SAS coordinator and principal approval."

There are important benefits in using outside trained facilitators and increasing the amount of support groups on campus:

1. Having more trained facilitators gives counselors a greater opportunity to offer more and a greater variety of student support.
2. Co-facilitators from the community may be able to bring an added expertise that school counselors may not have (i.e. working with issues relating to hospice, eating disorders, mental health, etc.).
3. Support groups allow counselors, teachers and administrators to forge a closer and deeper relationship with students, some that may have tendencies toward violence, drugs or other issues.
4. Community support is being used in Internships, School to Career and Community Service programs within the district. Using community resources in this fashion is a unique and practical addition to the support of district students.

VOLUNTEER TRAINED GROUP FACILITATOR REQUIREMENTS

1. Participate in SAS facilitator training.
2. Be fingerprinted through the school district.
3. Be interviewed by the Head Counselor Committee including Director of Pupil Personnel Services.
4. Complete Volunteer Information/Application Form.
5. Facilitate groups with San Dieguito Union High School District certificated staff members only.