



SCHOOL COMMUNITY INTERVENTION PROGRAM
10 Myths vs. Facts about SCIP for Parents/Guardians
September 2011

- 1. MYTH:** Students are referred to SCIP because they are in trouble at school.
FACT: SCIP is a student assistance program that works to identify and assist students who are not finding success at school. It is not designed to be a disciplinary approach, although, there may be necessary disciplinary measures taken by the administration.
- 2. MYTH:** A teacher makes a SCIP referral only if they know the student is using drugs or alcohol.
FACT: Teachers don't have to have hard facts in order to make a SCIP referral; they may notice changes in a student's behavior and it has raised their level of concern for that student.
- 3. MYTH:** I don't want anything to do with SCIP because it will become part of my child's file.
FACT: SCIP information is never placed in a student's permanent record and will not follow that student from school to school when his/her file is sent.
- 4. MYTH:** I'm a bad parent if my child is referred to SCIP. My kid's a good kid; he/she wouldn't do anything like that.
FACT: A child's behavior is not necessarily a reflection on the parent. The best parents in the world can have a child who makes poor choices on occasion or is struggling with personal issues. SCIP is there to help your child and provide you with information and resources you may not know.
- 5. MYTH:** SCIP can't really do anything to help my child.
FACT: SCIP can offer a family many school and community resources that parents might not know about. The SCIP team can share a list of community resources for the family to choose an agency where they can take their child for a professional screening.
- 6. MYTH:** A SCIP referral means there's a problem.
FACT: A SCIP referral means that someone has noticed a change in a student's behavior and they are concerned about that. They would like the SCIP team to look into the concerns further. If the family takes the child to an agency for a screening, it may well rule out that there is a problem.
- 7. MYTH:** SCIP is just for drug or alcohol concerns.
FACT: SCIP has expanded its scope to include not only drugs and alcohol issues but also mental and behavioral health concerns. Studies have shown that more and more youth who are experiencing concerns in one area are also experiencing concerns in the other area. For example, a student who is in emotional pain due to a family situation may look to drugs and alcohol to relieve that pain.
- 8. MYTH:** I'm the parent; I'd know if there's a problem. I can handle this at home.
FACT: Young people today are experts at hiding information from adults. There is no way any parent can know everything their child is doing, saying, or trying. Nor can parents know WHERE their child is every minute of the day. Teachers have the advantage of observing students all day in their classrooms. Parents can begin to deal with problem behaviors once they become aware of them, the extent of them and then reach out for help if measures you take at home don't seem to change things.
- 9. MYTH:** My child's behavior is "normal" and will go away in time. All kids act that way.
FACT: Many of today's youth do not use alcohol or other drugs. These students have made a commitment to be drug and alcohol free. It's great when these kids know each other and know they have the support of their friends in remaining drug free.
- 10. MYTH:** My kids won't listen to me; it doesn't do any good to talk to them about this stuff.
FACT: Parents do have influence over their children. By starting with rules, guidelines and consequences at a young age, and by being consistent, children grow into respectful, responsible young adults. Children often look to their parents to set boundaries. It much easier to say, "I can't do that; my mom would kill me," or "My folks would know if I did that so I can't," than to say, "I don't think so." This way the parent is the one to shoulder the blame.