

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Big Spring School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or for information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Title IX and Action 504 Coordinator.

CARE TEAM

Big Spring Middle School
43 Mt. Rock Road
Newville, PA 17241

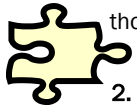
BIG SPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL CARE TEAM

The Big Spring School District has made a commitment to identifying and helping students demonstrating signs of use or abuse of alcohol or other drugs, as well as those with mental health concerns. A team of middle school teachers, administrators, school counselors, school nurse, and other school personnel have been trained and are working hard in their role to aid students in finding success in their education at Big Spring Middle School.

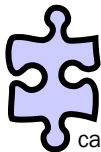


THE CARE TEAM

1. **What is the CARE Team?** Our job isn't to help you with your homework, but if there are things going on in your life that make doing schoolwork unusually difficult, our job is to help you to find ways to tackle those obstacles. Some obstacles that we may be able to help you with include substance abuse, stressful relationships at school or at home, mental health issues including thoughts of suicide or depression, etc.



2. **Who makes referrals?** Anyone can refer a student. A teacher who observes physical or behavioral changes in a student might make a referral, but students often are the best observers of their friends and classmates, so they make referrals. Occasionally, a parent or community member is concerned and makes a call to the school.



3. **Why should I refer someone?** There are a ton of "symptoms" or signs that might cause one person to refer another, but the most obvious are things like bragging about the use of alcohol or other drugs, coming to school under the influence, sudden changes in friends, work habits, or appearance, as well as talk of suicide, etc.



4. **What happens to someone who makes a referral?** Nothing. That person might be asked for more information, but it is possible to remain virtually anonymous when you make a referral.
5. **How do I make a referral?** The most discreet way is to fill out a form in the library and put it in the box marked "CARE Team", but it's usually helpful to talk to one of the members of the CARE Team and get his or her help with the referral.
6. **If I make a referral, what happens to the person I refer?** The first thing we do is try to validate what the referral says, whether it came from a student, teacher, staff member, coach, or parent. Then, we have to contact the student's parents. *We do not tell them who made the referral*, and we never tell them there's a definite problem. We just tell them that a concern has been expressed and ask them to work with us to learn more.
7. **When a referral involves drugs, are the police involved?** No, not when a referral is made. The objective is to determine and help to resolve problems that exist. The only time the police could be involved is when a student violates school substance use policies.
8. **Can the CARE Team make someone go into therapy, foster care, or another program?** The CARE Team does not make those decisions. Participation in the program is voluntary and the parents can stop it at any time. It is extremely rare that a student ends up in any kind of placement as a result of a referral to the CARE Team.

Sudden changes in friends or appearance are some of the most obvious reasons for a referral.

Members of the CARE Team:

- Dr. Wilson, Principal
- Mrs. Ward, Assistant Principal
- Mrs. Winesickle, Home School Visitor
- Mrs. Fulker, School Counselor
- Ms. Craig, School Counselor
- Mr. Bavaria, School Psychologist
- Mrs. Heishman, School Psychologist
- Mrs. Martin, 6th Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Piper, Art Teacher
- Mr. Perry, 8th Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Weingarten, School Nurse
- Mrs. Kuntz, Health Teacher
- Mrs. Zinn, 7th Grade Teacher
- Mr. Acker, Cumberland-Perry D&A
- Mrs. Pelow, Teenline of Holy Spirit Hospital
- Mrs. Crouse, 6th Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Stellfox, Emotional Support Teacher

TRAINING: The members of the team have participated in intensive training approved by the PA Department of Education. The team member's job is to use these skills in identifying students experiencing difficulty in school because of drug and alcohol or mental health concerns.