

Student Assistance Fund

Who are we and what do we do?

We are located in room 130

The Student Assistance Fund began in January of 2002 as part of the Angel Foundation. The goal of the program was to **REMOVE ECONOMIC BARRIERS TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS** for all students. Now in our 13th year, the SAF program is run with volunteers and private funding.

SAF is not an exclusive or narrowly defined group of students; SAF serves 30% of the East student population. **LOTS OF KIDS USE OUR SERVICES, over 650 every year**, and it is rare to find a student who is embarrassed to come see us for help. Our goal is to assist those with real economic challenges however SAF does not require any economic information. We are able to provide more services for those students who qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch and RTD does require minimal income information.

Our program offerings include providing students with support for

- **fees**
 - Art
 - Music
 - Woodworking
 - AP testing
 - SAT and ACT testing
 - Cap & Gowns
- **books**
 - required reading for English classes
 - accelerated and advanced placement textbooks
- **scientific and graphing calculators**
- **transportation utilizing RTD teen bus passes**

Each student must have a current Student Assistance Fund contract, signed by a parent or guardian on file with us each academic year. These contracts are available in room 130 and outside the door of room 130. (see attached)

Our commitment: We assist many students for their entire East academic career, beginning with a vocabulary book and perhaps finishing with a book scholarship for college and anything and everything in between. We recognize that student needs are fluid and ever changing and we make every effort to anticipate, analyze and accommodate these needs. The better our communication with faculty and administration, the better we can assist kids. If you recognize a need or area where the SAF might be of help, please contact the SAF volunteer staff. Anne

Sneed is the founding director of the program and can be reached at 720-423-8313, Anne_Sneed@dpsk12.org or atsconsult@aol.com. If a student's needs are beyond our program, we will connect the student with other resources in our broad network. Between SAF, school social worker, school nurse and the DPS homeless liaison we are able to address the needs of most students. We make every effort to treat each student as a unique individual and understand and assess their personal needs.

*****Accountability:** We assess each student's attendance and discuss and emphasize with them their responsibility for their education and academic success. Although we have a firm attendance policy, we review attendance on a monthly basis which provides each student the opportunity to remedy their truant status within a few weeks.

Office Hours: Room 130 is where the SAF office is located. We staff the office with 5 volunteers who maintain office hours 5 days a week. We post a calendar outside our office with who will be there on any given day and the hours she will be in the office. The lunch hour is always a good time. We generally are not in the office in the early morning but we can arrange for early office hours when needed. . If you are unable to see us during those times please call or email Anne and we will make arrangements Communicate with us!

Some of the ways we help and how

Nate's Pass-RTD Bus Passes: Providing transportation through RTD Teen bus passes continues to be a much needed service. Teen bus passes currently cost \$39.50 per month. Through the district's reduced bus pass program SAF sells monthly passes to students for \$19.75. We maintain a strict attendance policy with this program; students with 8 or more periods of unexcused absence in the prior 4 weeks are not eligible that month.

AP Testing Fees: We encourage all SAF students who are taking AP classes to request a test fee waiver from the counseling office. The Colorado State Board of Education has a fund specifically for assisting students with a full waiver of AP test fees. Students who qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch and those meeting published family income guidelines are eligible (annual income for family of 4 less than \$40,000). **AP TEACHERS- PLEASE ADVISE YOUR STUDENTS OF THESE OPTIONS.** Waivers are usually available beginning in March and must be requested before AP exams are given. For those students who do not qualify for a waiver and have financial hardship, SAF works individually with those students to assist with the cost.

Graphing Calculators: SAF has a payment plan for brand new TI-83 graphing calculators for \$90. We require a \$30 payment to the SAF office and a

signed payment plan contract in order to receive a new calculator. The student and family determine when two additional \$30 payments will be made. For those students who make their 1st scheduled \$30 payment on time, we may waive the final \$30 payment. The student receives the calculator for \$60 and understands that making an agreement and fulfilling it is a beneficial choice. SAF will loan used TI-83 graphing calculators to seniors if available.

Book Loans:

Required Literature books: We ask students to communicate with us at the beginning of each semester to let us know whose class they are in and what books they would like to borrow from us. We base our purchases on these requests and will guarantee those students who have communicated their need to us books for them to borrow. For students who do not communicate their needs in advance we do the best we can.

AP Text books: We will provide AP textbooks to those students who cannot afford to purchase them. Many AP classes now have classroom sets of text books so we make every effort to work with each student and teacher.

Japanese Books: We provide the market for students to purchase and/or borrow their textbook and purchase work books. Those students who earn a C or better the previous semester can purchase materials at a 50% discount.

Vocabulary books: students who qualify for Free & Reduced lunch will be given one free vocabulary book. Vocabulary books are available for sale in the SAF office all year round. Students can also work 1.5 hours for any additional vocabulary books.

Fees, etc: Fees for classes such as art, woodshop, photography; tickets for dances and a variety of other things, SAF allows the student to work for these fees. We credit the student with \$8 per hour and they can work for anyone in the building before school, after school, lunch or a free period. The student returns a work log to the SAF office and we write a transfer to the East High treasurer that pays the student's fees.

Athletic Fees: students who qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch are eligible for a reduced \$10 pay to play fee handled through the East Treasurer.

PE Uniforms: students who qualify for Free & Reduced lunch need to get a Free & Reduced lunch disclaimer form from their PE teacher, have it signed at home and return it to their PE teacher for a free PE uniform.