



OFFICE OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOHN J. CHOI, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!

We can say with confidence that there has never been a school year quite like this! We sincerely wish you, your colleagues, students and families the very best as you navigate all the uncertainties and challenges that this year brings. We want you to know we are here to partner with you, your students and families to offer support where we can to assist in increasing attendance for your students.

The SAM program will be taking referrals as in past years. We are asking schools to partner with us during COVID-19 to ensure that your students have all the learning materials, technology, and transportation necessary to attend school. We ask you as school partners to problem solve any barriers to attendance prior to referring students to SAM.

What is new this year for SAM?

- We have a new and much improved [Informational Meeting video](#). The SAM team will not be conducting in-person first step Informational Meetings but referring students and families to watch our video instead.
- In order to allow schools additional time to engage with the student and family, we are asking all students and families to repeat Step 1 (watching the video) this year.
- You will see a few changes within our [referral form](#). Please fill out the form completely, giving particular attention to the student and family's phone numbers and email addresses. New fields on the form this year ask you to indicate what type of learning the student is participating in, the video software used (if applicable), and what attempts have been made to contact/assist the family prior to making the referral.
- As in past years, we will be partnering with the Ramsey County Social Services Department to offer services to students and families throughout the SAM process.
- SARTs will be scheduled via Zoom (or another online platform) with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s), Ramsey County Social Services, and school personnel.
- Court may be utilized only after all other attempts on reengaging the student and family have not been successful.

You will be able to find current referral materials and the Informational Meeting video linked on our [website](#).


Please know we are available to answer your questions and concerns as we all navigate this school year. We appreciate your continued partnership to increase attendance and assist and support students and families in connecting to resources.

Wishing you the very best this school year,

Ramsey County School Attendance Matters Team

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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