

The Illinois School Crisis Assistance Team project

Regional offices of education across Illinois facilitated the development of School Crisis Assistance Teams (SCAT) in the spring of 2000. The teams were formed in collaboration with the Mental Health Association in Illinois, the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association and the Illinois State Board of Education under the leadership of former Attorney General Jim Ryan.

The statewide network containing the database of all trained teams, is based out of the office of the Mental Health Association in Chicago.

Interested in becoming a SCAT volunteer?

SCAT volunteers come from diverse backgrounds to provide crisis intervention services to members of school communities following a violent or traumatic incident. A college degree or background in counseling is not needed, but a strong commitment to help and the availability to respond when called is required.

All volunteers are required to complete an application and a statement of commitment prior to completing NOVA training.

To learn more, contact the Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education at (815) 937-2950; the Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health at (815) 939-3543; or the Iroquois Mental Health Center at (815) 432-5241.

**To contact the
School Crisis Assistance Team
call (815) 432-4918.**

Developed in cooperation with Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education, the Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health, the Iroquois Mental Health Center and the Pledge for Life Partnership with funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Emergency Response and Crisis Intervention Grant. However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy or the endorsement of the federal government.

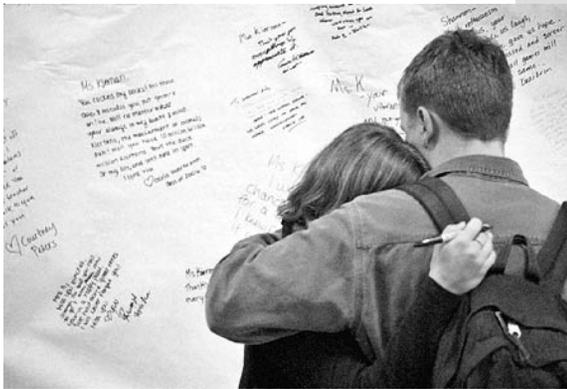


**School Crisis
Assistance Team**
for Kankakee and Iroquois Counties

Who we are ...

The School Crisis Assistance Team of Kankakee and Iroquois counties is comprised of volunteers from diverse professional affiliations and backgrounds.

All have successfully completed an intensive five-day, 40 hour training in the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA) curriculum; have a strong desire to help; and have committed their time and energy to assist in times of need.



SCAT services are available to all private and public schools in Kankakee and Iroquois counties and will only respond to school incidents after receiving a verbal invitation from a designated school official.

When to call ...

SCAT volunteers are prepared to help schools and communities deal with the mental and emotional trauma associated with such incidents as:

- ▲ The death of a student, staff member or a community member whose death affects a significant portion of the school population.
- ▲ Major natural disasters or environmental events.
- ▲ Situations that involve a threat to the physical safety of students, such as a school bus accident -- even in the absence of injuries.
- ▲ Situations involving a perceived threat to the emotional well-being of students including incidents of hate-crime graffiti, bomb threats or other acts of violence.



How we can help ...

SCAT volunteers have received extensive training from the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA). Based in Washington, D.C., NOVA is a leading trainer of community crisis intervention teams across the nation. During and after a school crisis, SCAT members can help:

- ▲ Administrators identify groups at risk of experiencing trauma.
- ▲ Lead group crisis intervention sessions to show how victims can start to cope with distress.



- ▲ Assist with a plan of action in time of a school crisis.
- ▲ Be a resource in developing a school crisis plan or an informational source pertaining to assistance from state/national organizations that assist with violence and or trauma.

**In response to a school or community crisis,
contact SCAT 24 hours a day, seven days a week
by calling (815) 432-4918.**