

Students and Families Support Office – multidisciplinary team (Gabinete de Apoio ao Aluno e à Família)

1. Needs/challenges addressed

Attendance; Behaviour; Emotions/mental health; Language/multiculturality; Motivation

2. Level of intervention

Targeted at groups of pupils at risk and **individual** (for extreme levels of risks) according to their needs. In some cases there are extreme levels of risk of dropping out.

3. Intensity of the intervention

Intervention is ongoing (each week) or periodic, in line with the students' needs.

4. Target group and age group

The target group includes students in risk of dropping out and/or with disruptive behaviour. It includes students from all age groups, but mainly from the 3rd cycle (12 to 15 years old).

5. Conditions and different steps necessary for the implementation of the measure

Hiring staff with multidisciplinary profile; Informing school community about the availability of the office services; Promoting the collaboration of the teachers; Involvement of families and partners; Developing the tools and the monitoring system.

6. Decision makers on the type of support and possible adaptations

Decisions on the type, intensity and level of support, as well as possible adaptations are made by the Office staff, the Class headmaster, the Parents (or guardians) and the student. In major decisions, the School Head Office (or the Headmaster) is also involved.

7. Delivery of the measure and stakeholders

The measure is delivered by the Office Staff, teachers and when needed by other partners. The team meets often with partners such as Health Services, NGO's, Social Welfare Services to discuss, define and adjust measures.

8. Overall responsibility for implementation

The Office staff is responsible for the implementation of the measure, but the overall responsibility belongs to the School Head office.

9. Obstacles

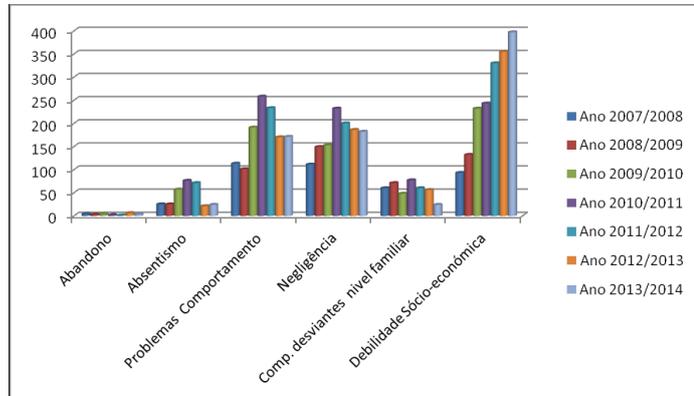
The main obstacles are to motivate the 3rd level students to the intervention planned and to involve families that are facing difficult economic and social situations in their children's educational path. There is a partnership with the municipality to help the families to overcome those difficulties and a school agreement on responsibilities (or a contract) is signed with the family in order to promote its involvement in the intervention process.

10. Monitoring and assessment

Measures are monitored in the team's meetings and with the collaboration of the Class Headmaster to assess the evolution in the indicated area. Each semester and at the end of the school year an evaluation report is done, which includes the assessment of the measures and proposals for the next term or year.

11. Results

The results show that the absenteeism (Absentismo) has been reducing, however the dropping out rate (Abandono) is more difficult to alter because there is a number of Roma young girls that still drop out to get married. The behavioural problems (Problemas de comportamento) have been instable but there is a reduction, in the last two years.



12. Resources and funding

The resources involved are one social worker and two mediators that work closely with the school teachers. The funding comes from the Ministry of Education and Science (the TEIP - Priority Intervention Educational Areas - Programme).

13. Is the measure still running?

The measure was created in the 2007/08 school year and is still running, with a reduction from 5 to 3 professionals at the multidisciplinary team.

14. Contact

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