

MassSTART is a substance abuse and violence prevention program funded by the Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS). Wediko Children's Services is delivering the MassSTART Program in the greater Boston area in collaboration with the Boston Public Schools and the Boston Police Department.

MassSTART serves at-risk students (ages 8-13) who are referred by their schools for a two year period. The program provides a range of services to enhance the competencies of children and families in order to meet the numerous environmental, social, and academic challenges they face on a daily basis.

Families, students, and school staff are involved in assessing needs and goals. The collaboration of all partners helps to determine what services are most suitable and increases the investment of those involved.

MassSTART services include:

- Intensive case management services
- School and classroom support for students to boost academic success
- Social skills groups to enhance age-appropriate interactions with peers
- Support for parents in advocating for their children at school and with other involved providers
- Collaboration with school staff and collateral agencies
- Social support for families
- Connection to community resources (for job training, mental health supports, parenting resources)
- Counseling, support, and crisis intervention for students and families
- Help for families seeking afterschool and summer programming
- Enrichment activities for students and families (family field trips, family events)
- Relationship-building among students, families, and law enforcement agencies

For more information, contact Monica Bies, LICSW, or Diana Parad, LICSW, ACSW, at 617-292-9200.