



## CSA

A PEATC  
Do You Know  
Factsheet for Virginia's Parents

---

---

Your child and family may be eligible for assistance through the Virginia Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families if your child meets the following guidelines:

- Under the age of 18, or in some cases, under 22\*; and,
- At risk of having serious emotional or behavioral difficulties; and
- In need of services from multiple County/City agencies.

\*Youth aged 22 and under who are eligible for special education and whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) requires education in a private school or residential placement, are eligible for CSA services until the last day of the school year in which they turn 22 years of age.

---

---

8003 Forbes Place Ste 310  
Springfield, VA 22151  
800-869-6782 / 703-923-0010

[www.peatc.org](http://www.peatc.org)

---

---

# Do You Know

## What is the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) and what does it mean for my child?

The Comprehensive Services Act is a Virginia law designed to help troubled youths and their families. State and local agencies, parents and private service providers work together to plan and provide services to children, who have serious emotional or behavioral problems; who may need residential care or services beyond the scope of standard agency services; that need special education through a private school program; or who receive foster care services.

Throughout Virginia, teams known as Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) implement the Comprehensive Services Act as specified by the *Code of Virginia*. For example, the governing bodies of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church work jointly to implement the CSA locally through the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) -- with the goal of strengthening and reuniting families.

An IEP team or a CSA team may decide to place your child for educational reasons in a private school or facility that is licensed or has a certificate to operate from VDOE. If such a placement occurs, the placing school division must provide special education and related services as described in your child's IEP, at no cost to you. In addition, the CSA team can place your child in a private school for non-educational reasons. In that case, the school division on that CSA team is responsible for revising the IEP, as necessary, to reflect this non-educational placement.

### What are the goals of CSA?

The goal of the CSA is to keep families together and provide services within the child's home and community whenever possible. Through teams required by the CSA, state and local agencies are brought together to provide services that are intended to:

- Preserve and strengthen families.
- Identify needs and help families as early as possible.
- Provide services in the least restrictive setting possible.
- Develop service plans to meet the specific needs of a child.
- Increase communication between families and agencies.
- Encourage public-private partnerships in serving families.
- Provide more community control and flexibility in the use of funding

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are CSA services?	Wrap-around services (e.g., in-home behavioral consultation, therapy services, respite) designed to maintain children in the home. It may involve placement decisions for educational and non-educational reasons.
Who is eligible for CSA services?	Children who have behaviors that put themselves and/or others at risk of harm (e.g., self-injurious behaviors, elopement, aggression) and are at risk of a more restrictive placement.
How do I get CSA services?	Call the school social worker and tell them about the challenges your family is facing in maintaining your child in the home. Present your child on his/her worst day. Ask to go to a “FAPT meeting”. The FAPT team will recommend or deny funding for services. Ask the social worker for their email address so that you can document your request in writing.
How long does it take to get CSA services?	This can vary greatly from one LEA to the next. Expect to meet with your school social worker so that s/he can complete the required assessments about your child’s ability to function in the community & home. It may take up to 3 months (or more) to get services in place.
What types of services are provided?	Services are individualized - based on the family and child’s needs. Services are geared toward providing support necessary to maintain your child in the home and could range from in-home counseling, development of behavior strategies and respite services.
Are the services affordable?	It depends. Copays are set using a sliding scale based the family’s income. Depending on the amount of services your family is approved for, the program may offer high quality, reliable assistance at an affordable price. Divide your copay by the number of hours you are approved for to determine whether you may maximize your benefit costs elsewhere.
What does the copay include?	Be sure to discuss this with FAPT team <i>before</i> signing a copayment agreement. Typically, the hours your family has been approved for include direct service and administrative hours. In other words, you may be authorized for 30 hours and actually receive 20 hours of direct service; the remaining 10 hours are used for case documentation and planning. The copayment cannot be prorated – so ensure or state in writing that you agree to pay the copayment when the <i>full complement</i> of services is provided. Otherwise, you will be required to pay the full monthly co-pay even though your family received 1 week of services.
How long do services last?	Typically six months, with the possibility of renewal. Renewal is based on need.

## Resources

<http://www.peatc.org/peatc.cgim?template=csa>

<http://www.csa.virginia.gov/>

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/comprehensive\\_services\\_act/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/comprehensive_services_act/index.shtml)



The contents of this factsheet were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, # H328M140013. However, those



contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer Julia Martin Eile.