



WEST BLOOMFIELD YOUTH ASSISTANCE

c/o West Bloomfield High School
4925 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323
248-592-1278 • 248-592-1720(fax)

West Bloomfield Youth Assistance (WBYA) - A Resource for Youth & Families in our Community

Frequently Asked Questions

What is WBYA?

West Bloomfield Youth Assistance (WBYA) is a local non-profit organization that offers professional counseling services and conducts prevention programs for youth and their families who live within the West Bloomfield School District.

What does WBYA do for children and their families?

WBYA helps **prevent** a child from continuing down the wrong path, with the goal of keeping them in school and out of the court system. WBYA's mission is to strengthen youth and families and to prevent and reduce delinquency, abuse and neglect through volunteer involvement.

Who would benefit from WBYA services?

Typical problems that can benefit from WBYA services are truancy, shoplifting, or other situations where no illegal act has occurred but a child may have a recent change in attitude or behavior. Children and families who are struggling with issues such as divorce or separation, death or serious illness within the family, depression, substance abuse, home or school incorrigibility, educational neglect, curfew violations, and other behavior problems.

What services does WBYA provide?

WBYA provides professional casework services that are confidential, family focused, short term and voluntary. These services are provided to children of all ages and their family through the WBYA office located inside of West Bloomfield High School.

Other services include family assessment and referral services, referrals to drug screening, short term youth and family counseling services, behavior contracting, accountability and monitoring and family education programs in Oakland county. WBYA also has programs including skill building, family education, summer camps and youth recognition programs.

The **Mentors Plus program** is an extremely important program in which children are matched one on one with a caring adult. Mentors Plus was created to assist in providing the child with time, attention, stability and companionship.

West Bloomfield Youth Assistance provides need-based scholarships to assist families with the cost of a **summer camp** enrichment experience. WBYA offers a limited number of scholarships to students residing within the West Bloomfield School District.

In keeping with WBYA's mission to strengthen youth and families through volunteer involvement, **youth recognition awards** are presented at an annual ceremony to local children. WBYA is proud to recognize local youth for their commitment to improving themselves and our community through their volunteer efforts and hard work. This positive reinforcement builds the child's self esteem and their sense of belonging in our community.



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How is WBYA funded and is there a cost for WBYA services?

West Bloomfield Youth Assistance operates under the sponsorship and financial support of the West Bloomfield School District, the City of Keego Harbor, the City of Orchard Lake Village, West Bloomfield Township, and the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division. Funding is also provided through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

A one time \$25 per child processing fee for all casework services applies, thereafter the services are **FREE**. Fees can be waived for families unable to pay the processing fee. **No child is ever refused services for inability to pay.**

Who can make a referral?

Anyone concerned about a child can make a referral, including parents, relatives, friends & neighbors. School personnel - including counselors, principals or teachers - police can make a referral.

How do I make a referral?

Referrals are made simply by filling out a one page Youth Assistance referral form. Every school in the West Bloomfield School District, local agencies and police departments should have copies at their offices. Our website **WBYouthAssistance.org** also has a contact form you can fill out, and the office will contact you as soon as possible.

I know a child or family who needs help and I want to make a referral but I don't want my name disclosed. Can I make a confidential referral?

If you see a child in need and feel a referral for services is appropriate, but would like to remain confidential it is recommended that you contact the school and ask to speak with someone who may be willing to make a referral. This is helpful in establishing trust with the caseworker and the child/family, so that there is not information withheld right from the start of the process.

What happens after a referral is made?

Once a Youth Assistance referral has been received in the office, it is reviewed by WBYA staff. An appointment letter on Oakland County Court letterhead is mailed to the family inviting them to come in for a family assessment meeting. This meeting is utilized to explain the youth assistance program, and determine the family's need for services. It is also used to find out information that will assist casework staff in determining the best resources available for the family to access.

**For more information contact WBYA by phone at (248) 592-1278
or visit our website www.WBYouthAssistance.org**