

Student Achievement Manager (SAM)

Massey High School

Massey High School was the first school to form a partnership with the Starpath Project. Some of Starpath's initiatives were adapted from the data work that was already taking place at this West Auckland high school, including Student Achievement Managers. The SAM role evolved as the school's capacity around data increased. The same Student Achievement Manager, or SAM, has been in place at Massey since 2007. She has provided the following advice:

Why have a SAM?

- The SAM is very important because s/he allows each student's progress and attainment to be tracked over time.
- It provides the fundamental basis for which evidence is collected and interpreted for the benefit of the students.
- SAMs can alert staff, students and parents if things are not tracking well.
- Support or an intervention can be introduced to address any problems.

Role of the SAM:

- Organise the timely collection of data.
- Work with the school's Database Manager to record all student achievement data.
- Maintain the evidential database (EDB).
- Review and analyse results.
- Prepare target setting calculations.
- Manage tracking and monitoring.
- Prepare data for academic counselling.
- Support Academic Counselling Manager.
- Prepare data for parent-student-teacher conferences.
- Support PST conference co-ordinator.
- Manage/train data teams and professional learning communities.

Challenges:

- Encouraging staff to complete assessments and provide information to students, then enter results into the student database in a timely manner.
- Ensuring information entered into the database is correct.
- Prioritising to manage the workload.

Support:

- The SAM needs time to collate and analyse the data;
- To attend professional development on data analyses;
- To have a good working knowledge of NCEA, its rules and regulations.

Highlights:

- Seeing the use of data being directed back towards making improved outcomes for students.
- Using data as a key tool in feedback and feed forward.
- Allows teachers to make interventions to get the best results academically for students.