

GUIDANCE/COUNSELING SERVICES

The Governing Board recognizes that a comprehensive counseling program can help promote academic achievement and serve the diverse needs of district students. Students shall be encouraged to arrange a meeting with counseling staff to discuss academic, social or personal problems, and other issues that may impact student learning.

Academic and Career Counseling

The district's academic counseling program shall help students establish immediate and long-range educational plans, achieve academic standards, prepare for the high school exit examination, and complete the required curriculum in accordance with their individual needs, abilities, and interests. Insofar as possible, parents/guardians shall be included when making educational plans.

Counseling staff shall help students plan for the future and become aware of their career potential. Academic planning for higher education shall include information about courses needed for admission to colleges and universities, standardized admission tests, financial aid, and scholarships.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a program of guidance, placement, and follow-up for all district students subject to compulsory continuation education.

Colleges and prospective employers, including military recruiters, shall have access to students for recruiting purposes at designated events by invitation and approval of school administrator.

Personal Counseling

Counseling staff shall identify and work with students whose personal problems may prevent them from functioning up to their potential. As appropriate, students shall be informed about agencies that offer qualified professional assistance with substance abuse, physical or emotional problems, or other personal problems.

Counselors shall respect student confidentiality as appropriate and shall consult with the Superintendent or designee or with the district's legal counsel whenever unsure of how to respond to a student's personal problem. Parent/guardian consultation and consent shall be obtained as appropriate.

Crisis Counseling

The Board recognizes the need for a prompt and effective response when students are confronted with a traumatic incident. School counselors shall assist in the development of the comprehensive school safety plan, emergency and disaster preparedness plan, and other prevention and intervention practices designed to assist students before and after a crisis.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall identify crisis counseling resources to train district staff in appropriate response techniques and/or to directly help students cope with such crises if they occur.

Early identification and intervention plans shall be developed to help identify those students who may be at risk for violence so that support may be provided before they engage in violent or disruptive behavior.